





## HOME NEWS

## Hospital staffs urged to protest at elderly patients' sudden move

By a Staff Reporter

One hundred thousand members of the National Union of Public Employees (Nupe) in London were last night urged by union officials to demonstrate next week in protest at developments at Hounslow hospital. On Thursday the local health authority reacted to a staff work-in there by suddenly removing the last 21 elderly patients.

As the Department of Health yesterday asked Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Health Authority for a report on the transfer of the patients, there were calls for industrial action in other London hospitals, and a resolution calling for an inquiry is to be put before the south-east regional council of the TUC today.

The extent of industrial action is likely to be decided this weekend, but yesterday 200 staff at Hammersmith Hospital, after meeting for more than an hour, said they would strike for half a day and hold another meeting next week.

Mr William Geddes, the Nupe chairman of the hospital's shop stewards' committee, said the general secretaries of all the unions represented were being urged to call an official strike throughout London hospitals on Monday. Union leaders from seven hospitals also met at Hammersmith.

Mr Ronald Keating, Nupe's assistant general secretary, said a telegram had been sent urging Mr Ronald, Secretary of State for Social Services, to visit Hounslow hospital and inspect it, because the two wards cleared of patients looked "like a battlefield".

Mr Harold Wild, the union's London organizer, last night sent a circular offering his members to demonstrate at a meeting of the health authority on Wednesday when the future of the hospital will be discussed again.

Mr Wild said there was considerable anger over the authority's action and he expected to hear from branches on protest action over the weekend. If there were calls for industrial action, Mr Wild said, he would ask the union's executive to support them.

A work-in at Hounslow hospital began over a month ago after the health authority announced that it would be closed because of the need for economies.

On Thursday evening, when health authority officials called there were still 17 women and four men receiving treatment in

two wards. The youngest patient was 59 and the oldest 93.

Some were left waiting in the hospital's lobby on a cold, wet afternoon. Others, bewildered, watched as their beds were dismantled by workmen and their personal belongings swept into plastic bags.

The staff say the transfer was done by officials and porters. Afterwards the two wards were cluttered with debris, including bottles of urine. It is claimed that one male patient had been complaining of chest pains only 30 minutes before the transfer to the West Middlesex hospital.

A health authority official said yesterday that the move had been made after consultation with consultants at the West Middlesex hospital who were responsible for the Hounslow patients. No warning had been given to Hounslow staff because it was feared they might try to thwart the move.

The official denied there had been no medical staff on duty during the move. He said ambulances were used for stretcher cases and a minibus took patients in wheelchairs or who could walk.

Inquiry demanded: Trade unions representing 2,400 staff at new E2m Barnsley district General Hospital are to ask the Trent Regional Health Authority to investigate the running of the hospital and how money allocated for it has been spent (Richard Kershaw writes).

It is claimed that the 800-bed building has only half its possible complement of patients and that auxiliary staff are overworked.

Senior surgeons at the hospital have alleged that operating theatres were inadequately equipped, that there were shortages of instruments while fitted carpets were to be found in corridors and money was earmarked for landscape gardening. The Barnsley Area Health Authority has denied forgetting to order instruments.

The Trent regional authority said last night: "We have noted what the Barnsley Area Health Authority said in their statement and we support what they have said. If they require our assistance we will give it."

## Search for monster

An Italian diving team is going to Scotland next week in search of the Loch Ness monster. They hope to find it before the Japanese and American teams do the lake about the same time.

## Reports on pill risk are endorsed in part

By Peter Godfrey

Women who are over 35, smoke and have been taking the contraceptive pill for five years or more should consider using an alternative method of contraception, the Family Planning Association said yesterday. But the association advised women not to become unnecessarily alarmed and not to stop taking the pill without consulting a doctor.

Commenting on two reports, published in *The Lancet* yesterday which suggest that older women taking oral contraceptives are more prone than others to heart disease, the association agreed with the Government's Committee on Safety of Medicines that there was no need to change existing warnings provided with the prescription of oral contraceptives, except to emphasize the increased health risk for women aged over 35, especially cigarette smokers.

The two newly published reports confirm and extend findings published last year concerning heart attacks and the pill. Both studies commenced in 1968, when the pills in use contained higher doses of oestrogen, most of which are now on medium or low-dose pills, which the FPA recommends and prefers.

Manufacturers of contraceptive pills were guarded in their response to the reports because of those developments. "It is very difficult to relate the findings of the studies to oral contraceptives in use today, most of which have reduced their oestrogen dose by 40 per cent," Mr William Crothers, marketing director of Shearings Chemicals, said.

Oral contraceptives with a low oestrogen content were introduced in 1973, and Shearings is conducting research into further reducing the dosage without jeopardizing the pill's reliability.

Wyeth Laboratories, another large manufacturer, said: "The report is obsolete. It is of scientific interest, but of no current value to women taking the pill."

According to Family Planning Association statistics, 45 per cent of the 3,200,000 women in Britain who use oral contraceptives take pills with an oestrogen content of less than 50 microgrammes, and less than 1 per cent take high dosage pills. The association estimated that four-fifths of women on the pill are aged under 30.

## By-ways of government, 2: Colonial Lighthouse Service

## Two remaining flashes of Britain's imperial glory

By Stewart Tendler

The Empire is gone. The Raj has ended in India, the sealer is home from Africa and the air is filled with a dozen new national anthems. But all is not completely lost and the chapter on Britain's imperial adventures cannot be closed just yet.

One paragraph, one footnote, still has to be completed. One hundred and forty years after the foundation of the Colonial Lighthouse Service is still functioning, running two lighthouses from the marine division of the Department of Trade in High Holborn.

Thousands of miles away, on Sombro Island, near Anguilla, in the Caribbean Sea, the keepers still wear the cap badge of the Imperial Lighthouse Service, the title in better days, when they turned out in dress whites to greet official visitors.

At Cape Pembroke, in the Falkland Islands, things have been so quiet for so long that

there are no reports in the division's file on the lighthouse there.

The first of the service's lighthouses—there were to be 17 in its heyday—was founded in the Bahamas in 1836, to protect ships from local wreckers who guided vessels on to the rocks with false lights. On several occasions the wreckers attempted to destroy the official lights, but eventually 10 were established on the islands.

Another four were erected in Ceylon, and one was placed off the Maldives Islands, at the southern tip of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). The service was staffed by retired naval officers, who superintended local keepers.

In the West Indies immaculate sloops and schooners were used to service the remote lighthouses. As young men about to begin their careers in India neared their destinations on the P and O steamers they would see the working lights of Minicoy.

That was in fact the first station to be surrendered by

the service, when the Indian Government was given the lighthouse in 1956. But it took some time to persuade the new governments of Sri Lanka and the Bahamas to take over the lights in their countries.

They were not very keen, although Britain wanted to give them the lighthouses free of charge. It is said they were finally persuaded by a shrewd civil servant who appealed to national pride by pointing out that it would not do for them to appear to be unable to run their lighthouses.

In 1973 the Bahamas took over Great Isaac Lighthouse, Elbow Cay, and the others with their bizarre names. A year later Sri Lanka agreed to run the four off its coast.

But there was no one around to take over the service's two remaining lighthouses and at present there is still no sign of anyone coming forward. The two lights are trade routes and perform a valuable service, and no one has suggested that they should be shut down.

The annual cost is about £100,000, still drawn from the general lighthouse fund. Every time a ship arrives at a British port part of the lighthouse dues go to those far-off lights.

Cape Pembroke is on one of the main islands of the Falkland group, and the administration and recruiting of staff are done locally. The principal keeper receives a salary of £2,500 a year and the full complement of the lighthouse is three keepers and one reserve.

First erected in 1855, the lighthouse was rebuilt in 1965 and has a troubled London very little since.

Sombro, built in 1868, is a lonely posting. The lighthouses and an accommodation block stand on a bleak rock out of sight of land. Every two weeks the Warspite, a motorized schooner, brings fresh food and a relief keeper.

The lighthouse is usually manned by three keepers and a civilian principal keeper receives £1,500 a year and London has recently been concerned by a suggestion from the keepers that they should be paid more, giving them parity with the Anguilla police force.

Although there is very little to do on the rock, the keepers have refused to consider pointing the red steel frame of the lighthouse, even though they were offered financial inducements. Instead they have been campaigning for a television set, which they will get shortly, provided someone can work out how it can be delivered safely.

The rock can be reached only by a sometimes perilous climb up a ladder from the sea. In 1962 the lighthouse had to be rebuilt, after a hurricane smashed the tower.

When and if the lighthouses are finally given away it will still not be the end of the service. There are 69 men receiving pensions for their days among the "Colonial Lights".

Next: National Fire Service

## Rail collision caused by wiring mistake

A wiring mistake which reversed rail signals was the cause of a collision in which two train drivers died, Major Charles Rose, a Department of Transport Inspector, said yesterday.

Mr Ronald Mitchell, a senior technician, told the inquiry that he had been one of three men called out to fit the rectifier in a track-side cabinet. He had been about to start testing the equipment when he received a telephone call from the signal box to say that there had been an accident at Farley junction, Leeds, last month.

Witnesses told the inquiry yesterday that because of a threatened power cut a standby generator had been installed. A rectifier had to be put in with it, and because that was incorrectly wired electrical signals from the signal box were reversed.

The driver of the Pennine Liverpool-Bull train, Mr Ronald Watson, aged 51, of Wheelwright Close, Kirkstall, Leeds,

died in his cab. Mr Kenneth Shore, aged 48, of Heights Way, Armley, Leeds, driver of the York-Shrewsbury mail train, died in hospital.

Mr Mitchell agreed that the wiring of the rectifier had been incorrectly done.

## Tarling plea for Lords

The House of Lords will be asked, next week, to hear appeals over the extradition to Singapore of Mr Richard Tarling, the former chairman of the Haw Par Brothers International. In July the Queen's Bench Divisional Court ordered him to be extradited to face trial on six charges relating to the affairs of Haw Par and Melbourne United.

The court cleared Mr Tarling on nine more serious charges concerning the operations of the Haw Par Group and

Spyder Securities and quashed an extradition order made by the Metropolitan Chief Magistrate on those charges.

Mr Justice Nield extended the suspension of the extradition order and continued Mr Tarling's bail.

## Replacement shoulder joint nearly perfected

From John Chatter

Experiments with the production of an artificial shoulder joint to help sufferers from arthritis have reached an advanced stage in Manchester.

Combined work by orthopaedic surgeons, led by a consultant at James Spence Hospital, and engineers at Manchester University's Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) is being concentrated on perfecting an all-metal bearing joint.

The replacement of arthritic hip joints with plastic bearings, an operation also developed in Manchester, is widely practised, but the replacement of shoulder joints has proved more difficult. The North Western Regional Health Authority said yesterday.

Combined plastic and metal shoulder joints had not been durable and metal-to-metal joints were more likely to be a permanent solution.

Research at the applied mechanics division at UMIST involves analysing a simulated stress and shows Mr Justice Nield, 10,000 times a day in a test rig, which can also reproduce the stresses on the human arm carrying heavy loads.

## Call for inquiry into alleged RUC brutality

From Christopher Walker

The Government is facing mounting pressure to set up an independent inquiry into alleged police brutality in Ulster, similar to that announced yesterday in the Irish Republic.

A call for an investigation of fresh allegations of systematic ill treatment of suspects by the Royal Ulster Constabulary was made by Mr Gerard Fitz, MP and leader of the Irish Democratic and Labour Party, after the disclosure in *The Times* that members of the Northern Ireland branch of the Police Surgeons' Association had convened an emergency meeting to discuss concern at interrogation techniques being used in RUC holding centres.

The meeting of the seven strong committee of the association, which represents 42 doctors employed by the Northern Ireland police authority, was held in private last night.

Before it began an official of the committee, which consists of Roman Catholic and Protestant doctors and has no political affiliations, stated: "We have seen things we are not at all happy with. The police authority is familiar with our views on certain matters. We now plan to discuss them as a group with the chief constable, Mr Kenneth Newman."

Commenting on the doctors' decision to hold a meeting, Mr Fitz said: "This matter will be raised in Parliament and if necessary taken to Strasbourg on behalf of those who have already been savagely beaten while in custody. Now that the doctors are getting together to voice their concern there can no longer be any official doubts that something serious is going on."

Speaking from London, Mr Fitz added: "There is no question of the SDLP acting in support of terrorists on this matter. We are merely asking

that the Government should intervene to ensure the preservation of human rights in Northern Ireland."

The decision of the police surgeons to take independent action about the brutality allegations is understood to have caused concern among senior RUC officers. The RUC refused to comment beyond stating: "They have the right to do what they think is correct, but we have not been officially notified about their meeting."

There is a growing feeling in political circles in Northern Ireland that the long running undercurrent of allegations is raising the police where some action, involving repeated official denials, will have to be taken.

The call for an independent judicial inquiry was taken up in a leading article published yesterday in the *Belfast Telegraph*. A senior member of the Alliance Party said: "The fact that the doctors are involved has put the allegations on to

quite a different plane. We shall be making a statement within a few days."

The decision by the Irish Government to set up its inquiry comes after a detailed and damaging report by members of Amnesty International and several articles in *The Irish Times* alleging the existence of a "heavy gang" within the police force. The Amnesty report was presented to the Irish Cabinet in August.

Mr Collins, Minister for Justice, said yesterday that it would be conducted by Judge Barra O'Connell, a former president of the Irish Circuit Court. Mr Ruairi Roberts, general secretary of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, and Mr Patrick Malone, a former police commissioner, they will not have judicial powers.

The commission has been asked to compile a private report for the Government on the treatment of suspects in police custody over the past two years.

## Man tells court of 'confession or death' threat

Mr Larry John Titmus, aged 26, a former record salesman, said at Cardiff Crown Court yesterday that he thought he was going to be murdered after being threatened with torture and death unless he confessed to a crime he had not committed.

Mr Titmus, of Victoria Park Road, Malvern Link, Hereford, and Worcester, said that his former area sales manager kidnapped him, tied him to a bed and threatened to put a hot iron on his back.

He was forced to write letters in his own name to Mr Arnold Baker, the managing director of his company, Record Merchandisers, of Hayes, Middlesex, falsely confessing that he stole £3,500 of records.

Clifford George Jones, aged 36, former area sales manager, of Colchester Avenue, Cardiff, was at the time on remand accused of stealing the records.

Mr Titmus said he was allowed to go to the lavatory with a rope tied round his neck "like a dog lead", which Mr Jones kept hold of.

Mr Jones has pleaded guilty to kidnapping and imprisoning Mr Titmus for three days and to attempting to pervert the course of justice. He has pleaded not guilty to stealing records valued at more than £12,000. His half-sister, Mrs Barbara Ann Evans, aged 23, of Glen Collen, Penryn, Cardiff, has pleaded not guilty to kidnapping and imprisoning Mr Titmus.

Mr Titmus said that later he was put in the boot of a car, but was not in a proper physical or mental condition to try to escape.

The trial continues on Monday.

## National Front leader fails to attend court

Mr John Tyndall, leader of the National Front, failed to arrive at Edinburgh Sheriff Court yesterday to give evidence at the trial of three men accused of assaulting him.

Two of the accused, David Simon, aged 29, an unemployed teacher, and Alan Weir, were cleared of assaulting Mr Tyndall, of Comaugh Road, Teddington, Middlesex, during the demonstration in the Gayfield square district of the city. Each was fined £20 on a breach of the peace charge.

Mr Weir, aged 21, a student, changed his plea halfway through his trial and admitted committing a breach of the peace. The Crown accepted his plea of not guilty to assaulting Mr Tyndall by throwing filth at him.

A third man accused of a breach of the peace, Calum Macrae, aged 24, was found guilty and was also fined £20.

Mr Macrae, an unemployed teacher who works as a street cleaner, said he was charged solely because the police wanted to make three or four arrests.

## Former editor's appeal over Rippon picture

A duty editor with BBC Television News appealed to an industrial tribunal in London yesterday against his dismissal for the corporation for taking photographs of a videotape showing Miss Angela Rippon dancing.

The photographs appeared later in the *Daily Mirror*. Mr Ken Brasington, aged 50, of Lloyds Place, Blackheath, London, claimed unfair dismissal from his £7,500-a-year post.

The videotape showed Miss Rippon, the news reader, dancing on the Morecambe and Ballyvaughan beach. The BBC had forbidden the release

to the press of any advance photograph of Miss Rippon, but a photograph appeared in the *Daily Mirror* on December 21.

Mr Brasington told the tribunal that he had taken the photographs as a favour for a former colleague who was the editor of the South Devon Times, the newspaper on which Miss Rippon started as a reporter. He did not know of the photograph being sent to the *Daily Mirror*.

Mr Thomas Morrison, counsel for the BBC, told the tribunal that the BBC feared advance publicity photographs would damage Miss Rippon's reputation for seriousness.

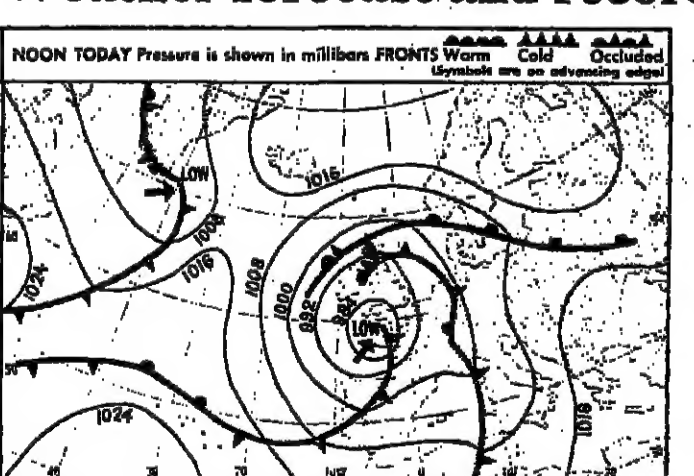
He said a number of possible criminal offences might have been involved, including larceny, conspiracy to break copyright and even corruption.

The former editor of the *South Devon Times*, Mr George Harris, said that after he received the photographs his editorial director decided not to use them. Mr Harris said the photographs as a scoop too good to waste and he sent them to the *Daily Mirror*.

He said that the question of money had never been raised with Mr Brasington.

The hearing was adjourned

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Tomorrow
Sun rises: 7.13 am Sun sets: 6.23 pm Moon sets: 1.55 am	Sun rises: 7.14 am Sun sets: 6.21 pm Moon sets: 1.55 am
New Moon: October 12, 6.44 am Lighting up: 6.52 pm to 6.44 am High water: London Bridge, 10.35 am, 5.44 pm (17.8ft); 11.19 pm, 5.7m (18.5ft). Avonmouth, 3.41 am, 9.7m (31.9ft); 4.14 pm, 10.2m (33.3ft). Dover, 9.23 am, 5.3m (17.3ft); 8.56 pm, 5.4m (17.9ft). Hull, 2.42 am, 5.7m (18.8ft); 3.42 pm, 5.8m (19.1ft). Liverpool, 9.30 am, 5.3m (17.5ft); 3.54 pm, 7.6m (25.0ft).	Lighting up: 6.51 pm to 6.46 am High water: London Bridge, 11.47 am, 5.7m (18.9ft). Avonmouth, 3.1 am, 10.7m (35.1ft); 5.24 pm, 11.2m (36.9ft). Dover, 9.19 am, 5.6m (18.3ft); 9.46 pm, 5.8m (19.1ft). Hull, 3.5 am, 6.1m (20.1ft); 4.38 pm, 5.3m (20.6ft). Liverpool, 9.30 am, 5.9m (25.8ft); 9.47 pm, 8.2m (26.8ft).

A depression will move slowly to the SW of Britain with an associated trough across N Scotland. Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, SE and central S England, East Anglia, Midlands: Fog patches early, becoming cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavy in places; wind SE, light or moderate; max temp 14°C (57°F-59°F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Rather cloudy, outbreaks of rain, heavy in places; wind SE, moderate or fresh; max temp 14°C (57°F).

E, NV, central N and NE England, N Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Bright spells after early fog patches, becoming cloudy with outbreaks of rain; wind SE, light or moderate; max temp 14°C (57°F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Early fog patches, sunny intervals and showers, heavy and prolonged in places later; wind SE, light or moderate; max temp 14°C (57°F).

Aberdeen, central Highlands, Argyll: Rain at first, becoming showery, bright or sunny intervals; wind E, light or moderate; max temp 13°C (55°F).

Moyle Firth, NE and NW Scotland, Orkney: Dull, periods of rain, hill fog, clear intervals later; wind NE, fresh or strong, becoming moderate or fresh; sea slightly, increasing to moderate or rough.

English Channel (E): Wind S, moderate or fresh; sea slightly, increasing to moderate or rough. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S, backing E, moderate; sea slight to moderate.

Yesterday  
London: Temp: max 7 am to 7 pm, 15°C (59°F); min 7 pm to 7 am, 12°C (54°F). Humidity: 7 pm, 78 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 7 pm, 0.1 in. (2.5 mm). Wind: 24hr to 7 pm, 97.8 mph. Bar: mean level, 7 pm, 997.8 millibars, rising.  
1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

Overseas selling prices  
Australia, 5th 18; Belgium, 5th 18; Canada, 5th 18; France, 5th 18; Germany, 5th 18; Italy, 5th 18; Japan, 5th 18; Netherlands, 5th 18; Portugal, 5th 18; Spain, 5th 18; Switzerland, 5th 18; USA, 5th 18.

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## Tories look for local government ideas

By Christopher Warman

The Conservative Party yesterday launched a new "think tank" on local government in the form of a magazine called *Centre Forward*. Its aim is to stimulate new ideas, and shadow ministers, including Mr Keith Speed, local government spokesman, declared themselves open to influence on policy from its contents.

The magazine will look not only at local government but also at the health authorities, water boards, the nationalised industries and ad hoc bodies, collectively known as quangos (quasi-autonomous non-governmental organizations).

Mr W. Thornhill, senior lecturer in political theory and institutions at Sheffield University and editor of the magazine, writes in the first issue that the watchwords in local government should be efficiency, effectiveness and

humanity. "In the past these have too easily been sacrificed in the pursuit of doctrinaire policies for their own sake."

The development of local government services had proceeded in an era of growth at such a pace that costs, efficiency and effectiveness had "freely been overwhelmed by the volume of work," he said.

"Then serious tendency towards centralization and ever-expanding public services raised the question about the ability of the institutions, and those who man them, to grapple with the large-scale and complex activities they embrace. So we must examine the structure of the subordinate institutions and their methods of working, to do what we can to secure improvements in the way they serve the community."

Lady Young, the party's deputy chairman in charge of administration, said it must be of concern that so many people felt alienated from government, whether central or local, and believed their only hope of

being heard was to join a pressure group.

"Public debate and participation in policy-making is demanded, understandable and necessary, but it is not always easy to find an effective forum for carrying it out."

The magazine, which is to be published twice or three times a year, is intended to serve as a forum for advanced "and even controversial" ideas. One such controversial note was struck by Hugh Ross, Opposition housing spokesman, who said that for the fourth year, because of the Rent Act, 1974, many students returning to university had nowhere to live.

The Conservatives had asked the Government to exempt private student accommodation from the Rent Act controls and had been given a written guarantee that that would be done, he said.

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## 'Sunday Times' appeals over Slater book ban

The Court of Appeal was asked by *The Sunday Times* yesterday to lift a ban on publication of extracts from a book about the Slater Walker financial empire.

The book, *Slater Walker*, by Christopher Raw, a financial journalist, is to be published on Thursday, the same day as Mr James Slater's memoirs, *Return to Go*, are due to appear. *The Sunday Times* wants to publish five extracts from Mr Raw's book, probably starting tomorrow week.

A ban on publication of the book and extracts from it was imposed by a High Court judge last year, on an application by Mr Slater and his co-founder of Slater Walker Securities, Mr Peter Walker, a former Conservative Minister. Later a judge lifted the ban on publication of the book.

Mr Slater and Mr Walker alleged that Mr Raw had broken a contract under which they agreed to cooperate with him on condition that they were given an opportunity to explain any facts, opinions, quotations or criticisms.

Mr Gerald Levy, for Mr Harold Evans, editor of *The Sunday Times*, told Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Evershed that the articles, written by Mr Anthony Bambridge, using Mr Raw's material, did not contain a single word that was not in the book.

Lord Denning asked Mr Levy: "The book is being published on Thursday; what on earth are the plaintiffs objecting to the articles for?"

Mr Levy replied: "Because they think more people will read *The Sunday Times* than read the book."

Mr David Hirst, QC, for the plaintiffs, said the substance of their case was that publication was to be in *The Observer*

## Tussaud's buy Queen Victoria's skirt

By Geraldine Norman



## HOME NEWS

## Divorce after only a year's separation suggested by judge

From Marcel Berlins  
Legal Correspondent  
Harrington

A husband or wife should be able to obtain a divorce after only one year's separation, even if the other spouse does not want it, Sir George Baker, President of the Family Division of the High Court, suggested yesterday.

He made his call for simpler divorce laws at the annual conference of the Law Society at Harrogate, citing the Australian law as a model.

There, he said, all that was needed to prove that a marriage had broken down irretrievably was one year's separation. That was logical, attractive, administratively sensible, and for Britain inevitable.

It would solve many difficulties for the courts, and would be a further step towards the far simpler divorce laws in which parties complained about each other's behaviour, which caused the divorce court far more trouble than anything else.

Under the present English law, although irretrievable breakdown of marriage is the only ground for divorce, it can be proved in five ways: two years' separation with both parties consenting, five years' separation if the other party is sane, adultery, desertion, and unreasonable behaviour.

Sir George said that he suspected some divorces were rigged. Parties wanting to get divorced would wait for two years, could easily get "evidence" of adultery or unreasonable behaviour.

Adopting the Australian system would end the rigged "quick" divorce, he said, and would put an end to all contested divorces except where there was a dispute about whether there had been a year's separation. There would be no

need to have to prove adultery or unreasonable behaviour.

Sir George said at the conference that he would not, however, do away with the law that a divorce petition could not normally be brought within three years from the date of marriage, except by special leave.

Earlier in his speech he had expressed concern at the combination of a rising divorce rate and a falling marriage rate. The ratio was approaching one divorce for only two weddings, compared with the ratio in the mid-1950s of one divorce to seven or eight marriages.

He viewed with horror the Californian ratio of one-to-three, he said.

In 1970, the last year before the reform of the divorce laws in England and Wales, there were 70,000 divorce petitions. Last year the figure was more than 146,000. During that same period marriages had dropped by 70,000 to 356,000.

Referring to recent publicity about paedophiles, Sir George gave an assurance to parents that judges settling family cases "are most careful to be certain that a person with such beliefs or tendencies has no access to any child in the care of the court. Without such an assurance, it would not be surprising if the courts took the law into themselves."

More tolerance: Miss Joan Sullivan, head of counselling at the National Marriage Guidance Council, said she was stunned by the case of a woman who thought the cause was easier laws, women's liberation, and a more tolerant attitude.

"At one time divorce was the prerogative of the rich. Poorer people stayed married no matter how miserable they were," she said.

## Councillors 'throwing away school opportunity'

Leaders of two teachers' organizations attacked local authorities last night for failing to provide the money for more teachers and better schools.

Mr Frank Mills, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, accused town hall treasurers of throwing away the best opportunity the nation has had to improve the quality of schools.

Thirty thousand trained teachers were drawing unemployment pay when they could be helping to bring tremendous benefits to schools.

Mr Mills, head of Marshfield Comprehensive School, St Albans, said that parents needed to be made aware that for short-term political expediency elected local authorities were throwing away the best opportunity we ever had to make the greatest simple educational advance in our history.

With a declining school population there was a real chance to improve pupil-teacher ratios and provide greatly enhanced opportunities for far more children to receive individual attention.

Mr Bernard Wakefield, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, joined in the attack. He said there was little evidence that several million pounds that the Government had allocated to local authorities to take on 2,000 extra teachers had been used for that purpose.

The attacks on the authorities came after the disclosure this week that in 1976-77 local education authorities had spent 158m less than they had asked for under rate support grants.

## Seven out of ten think Ford men 'greedy'

By Tim Jones  
Labour Reporter

Amid growing speculation that the Government would not impose sanctions on the Ford Motor Company if it conceded pay rises of more than 10 per cent to its 57,000 workers, an opinion poll published yesterday showed that seven out of 10 people believe the employees are being greedy.

The survey, conducted by the Opinion Research Centre, indicated strong backing for the Government's fight to bring down inflation.

Most of the 1,014 people who were asked earlier this week, believed the company should stand firm in resisting the unions' claim for 15 per cent on the basic wage and fringe benefits. Improvements worth another 10 per cent.

Citing the company's profits, the unions contend that their claim is "socially responsible", but the survey showed that most people would consider settlement on their terms as being a failure by the company to put the national interest first.

Public opinion, the survey showed, believes that Ford should stand firm even if that meant a strike, rather than buy peace by conceding the Government pay guidelines.

According to the survey, most people think that Ford workers in recent years have done better than most workers in terms of pay rises and should now settle for about 10 per cent.

Seventy-eight per cent of those asked thought a settlement of more than 10 per cent would have a bad effect on the cost of living. More than 60 per cent thought it would worsen unemployment, and 64 per cent considered it would harm the country's prosperity.

Seventy-eight per cent also thought the workers should back the Government's counter-inflation policy, while 64 per cent thought the company should stand firm in resisting the unions' claim for 15 per cent on the basic wage and fringe benefits.

While unions and management prepare for their next meeting on Wednesday, a "personality clash" forced the company to lay off about 1,000 night-shift workers at its Dagenham plant on Thursday.

The cause was a walkout by 48 assembly-line workers who want a foreman to be removed from the plant of the plant. By this morning the dispute will have caused the loss of production of 1,000 cars, at a sale price of about £3m.

A composite motion calling for the election of a new Labour government to do away with its nuclear arms and close down all its nuclear bases and reactors was unanimously passed by the Labour Party conference at Brighton yesterday.

The motion expressed alarm at the spread of nuclear weapons and the dangers of the neutron bomb, and demanded that the new general election manifesto should contain explicit pledges that Britain should renounce nuclear weapons and find other jobs for the workers concerned.

Mr Ray Buckton (General Secretary of the National Union of Motor Vehicle Engineers and Firemen), moving the motion, said Britain had put itself in the position of being a nuclear superpower. Weapons were no use unless there was an intent to use them first. They were no deterrent.

The greatest deterrent anyone could have in maintaining world peace is for consultation, dialogue and continual talking, he said. He would not be in a conference hall somewhere in the world endeavouring to have the final act of Helsinki implemented rather than sitting at home on the bomb.

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## Mrs Pizzey takes in more wives

Mrs Erin Pizzey took a battered mother into her refuge yesterday at Chiswick High Road, London, yesterday, the day after she was given a conditional discharge by Acton magistrates for over-crowding at the hostel.

Later yesterday a pregnant woman with one child was also being admitted to the refuge. She was followed by a battered wife and her five children. "Naturally I shall take them," Mrs Pizzey said. "Human beings come before the law. No court in the land will make me turn away women and children in need."

The court's decision upheld a ruling by Hounslow Council that only 36 people should use the house. Yesterday there were 72 people in the house, and Mrs Pizzey said she was "in prison if anyone thinks they will close this hostel they are mistaken. The mothers will fight on. I should like to see a change in the law, but I have no hands full of Hounslow Council said yesterday it would monitor the number living at the hostel during the next few weeks. No decision about further court action would be put before the appropriate committee.

## Police force to get £250,000 for overtime

Stringent financial restrictions on the Thames Valley police are to be eased to enable the undermanned force to tackle a backlog of inquiries and operate with greater flexibility, it was disclosed yesterday.

On the recommendation of the Chief Constable, Mr David Holdsworth, Thames Valley Police Authority has agreed to earmark up to £250,000 for vital work, the force announced. The decision was made recently after Mr Holdsworth had given a warning that at times police coverage was falling to "dangerously low levels."

## MP's advice to homosexuals

Mrs Margaret Colquhoun, the Labour MP for Northampton, North, advised homosexuals yesterday not to hide away, but to "come out into the open."

Mrs Colquhoun, aged 49, is fighting a move by her constituency party to unseat her, after it emerged that she was a lesbian. She discussed the controversy that surrounds her in the current issue of *Gay News*, the newspaper for homosexuals, and declared: "My sexuality has nothing to do with my ability to do my job as an MP."

## Failure to solve funeral dispute

Six hours of talks between funeral directors and the National Union of Funeral Service Operatives, under the auspices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, failed to settle the pay dispute yesterday. The two sides are to meet again on Monday.

## Husband and daughter of neglected recluse jailed

The husband and daughter of a bed-ridden woman who died of neglect were both jailed yesterday at Birmingham Crown Court. Mr Justice Cusack told the father, who had nursing experience, that he must take most of the blame.

During the hearing it was said that Stanley Wilkinson, aged 65, and his daughter, Mrs Cynthia West, aged 41, showed an "unbelievable degree" of indifference to the worsening condition of Mrs. Ada Wilkinson, who died aged 70.

Mr Wilkinson was jailed for a year and Mrs West for 18 months. They pleaded not guilty to manslaughter.

## Windscale secrecy 'fostered mistrust'

The management of the Windscale atomic plant in Cumbria was said yesterday to have fostered "suspicion and mistrust" among its 5,000 employees by being too secretive.

The allegation was made at the Windscale inquiry at Whitehaven by the Nuclear Energy and Resources Association, which said it had Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, and two dozen other MPs as members.

## Chinese refugee saved by ability to learn English

A refugee from Communist China, accused at Dunfermline Sheriff Court yesterday of stabbing two brothers, was told by Sheriff Shach that he was going to take the unusual step in an offence such as this of admonishing you because you have worked so hard learning English.

Mr. Shach, aged 25, a cook of High Street, Liverpool, admitted stabbing Thomas Rennie and Anderson Rennie, of Inverkeithing, with a butcher's knife when they ran back into his restaurant allegedly without paying the bill.

When Mr Chi first appeared in June it was stated that the assault was committed while he was being attacked after he had chased the brothers. Sheriff Shach deferred sentence until

## Couple die after drinking weed killer

From Our Correspondent  
York

Police are investigating the death of an elderly couple after drinking paracetamol, which is used as a weed killer.

It is believed that the substance was kept in a sherry bottle and that Mrs Grace Walker, aged 75, drank some by mistake. When her husband, Joseph, aged 73, realised what had happened he, too, swallowed some rather than live without her.

The couple, who lived in a house beside the River Ouse at Acaster Selby, near York, were visited by their son on Wednesday morning. Both had been sick and told him what had happened.

They were taken to York District Hospital and later transferred to St James's Hospital, Leeds, where they were placed on kidney machines.

Mrs Walker died on Wednesday and her husband died yesterday morning.

## Eire beef undermining prices, farmers say

By Our Agricultural Correspondent  
Correspondent

Farmers said yesterday that beef prices were being undermined by subsidized imports from the Republic of Ireland.

The National Farmers' Union said the subsidy was worth 12½ p a pound. British beef prices are falling so much that a smaller British subsidy sanctioned by the EEC will soon operate.

Opposition to Irish imports is strongest in Wales, where similar protests two years ago led to demonstrations by farmers at ports. Now as then, the opposition is part of the campaign by British farmers to win a devaluation of the "green pound", with which EEC farm prices are expressed in sterling.

The Irish "green pound" has been devalued more than the British, so that the value of EEC farm prices is greater to farmers in the Republic than in Britain. That means that when Irish farmers export to

## Guards' strike stops West Country trains

A strike by 120 railway guards has stopped West Country trains today.

The strike, which was called by the National Union of Railwaymen, has stopped all trains between London and Exeter, and from Exeter to Plymouth.

The unofficial strike over rest-day working is the result of the introduction of new rosters.

By late last night some of the trains into Exeter from south Wales, Bristol and Birmingham had been cancelled. Trains from Paddington to Birmingham, Worcester and Weston-super-Mare were also stopped.

British Rail said that special excursion trains to the Blackpool Illuminations would not be affected.

If the stoppage has not ended by Monday, commuter services to and from Paddington will be cut by about a third.

## New offer to air control strikers

A new pay offer, within the Government's pay code, has been made to the 850 air traffic controllers, whose strike is in its sixth week. A decision is expected late next week.

The Civil Aviation Authority, whose refusal to pay a 17 per cent claim caused the strike, refused yesterday to give details of the new offer.

## Work-to-rule by lift men starts

About 750 service engineers, members of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, yesterday began a work-to-rule in support of a 130 per cent wage claim.

The union has told the Engineering Employers' Federation that the 10 per cent offer does not even form a basis for further talks, but the employers say their offer would give the engineers another £8 a week.

## Public house blacking to continue

From Arthur Osman  
Birmingham

An emergency meeting of the committee of the National Association of Licensed House Managers is to be held at Wallingford on Monday to decide whether to take further action to take the case of the Fox and Goose public house in Birmingham, which is still without beer after 26 months.

The association said that it might try to buy its own supplies of beer into the house. Drayman at Ansell Brewery, who have refused to deliver because of a dispute with a predecessor of the present manager, met yesterday and decided to continue the blacking.

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## Theatre group takes over the Shaftesbury

The Shaftesbury Theatre, London, has been bought by the Cooney-Marsh Theatre Group, which is headed by Mr Raymond Cooney and Mr Laurence Marsh.

The theatre had been under threat of demolition since 1973 when part of its ornate ceiling collapsed. It had been closed for a year while £50,000 of repairs was carried out.

Designs to save the Shaftesbury were made by the actors' union, and by the Save London's Theatres Campaign.

The musical, *Maggie*, starring Dame Anna Neagle, is to open in the Shaftesbury on Wednesday.

Telegrams sent abroad delayed

Overseas telegrams from London and the South-east last night were being delayed by up to 36 hours because of an overtime ban by London inter-telegraph office operators.

## Government is asked to provide £1,000m a year for National Enterprise Board

A grade union official told the conference in a debate on industrial investment that he had been embarrassed by employers who were negotiating with the Government over a new system of wage settlements, why not to force planning agreements?

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## New structure of local government urged

A composite motion calling for the reform of the local government structure was carried, but the conference rejected a motion which would have created statutory parish councils where urban district councils had existed.

The composite motion said that the present organization of local government in non-metropolitan districts was detrimental to the interests of the people.

It called on the Government to make a study of the National Enterprise Board £1,000m a year to conclude planning agreements with the Government to speedily to give the EEC powers of compulsory acquisition and to harness local energy and initiative through creation of a national cooperative development agency.

Moving the resolution, Mr Alan Black (Stratford) said the motion was urging a return to party policy as envisaged three years ago. Planning agreements must be made compulsory. The voluntary system was not working and only one had so far been made.

The Government was willing to use compulsory powers, exceeding 10 per cent in wage settlements; why not to force planning agreements?

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## Warning on threat to press freedom

A protest at the "potentially dangerous precedent" of the party's executive in excluding two journalists from the conference was staged yesterday by some colleagues at Westminster Press were on strike was made by Mr David Harris, chief political correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* and chairman of the parliamentary lobby journalists.

He made his protest in a speech replying to the customary vote of thanks to the press.

Mr Harris said union solidarity meant a lot, but press freedom meant even more, and those journalists who worked at Westminster Press were on strike was made by Mr David Harris, chief political correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* and chairman of the parliamentary lobby journalists.

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## Defeat for platform over banned councillors

By George Clark  
Despite the advice of Mrs Lena Jeger, speaking for the party executive, the conference staged a last-minute rebellion yesterday and carried by a large majority a motion demanding legislation to remove the disqualification from holding public office imposed on 21 Clay Cross councillors.

Although Mr Jeger attempted to sway delegates by arguing that the motion, from the North-east Derbyshire Labour Party, was selected and would be used on other Labour councillors who had refused to carry out the Conservative Housing (Finance) Act, delegates were not impressed.

Pressure for a debate had mounted during the week and when the order of the final day's business was announced yesterday the supporters of the Clay Cross councillors rejected the programme and a debate had to be conceded.

Given the difficult task of speaking for the executive, Mrs Jeger found it heavy going and she was several times interrupted by cries of "shame."

Because of their refusal to carry out the law, 10 Clay Cross councillors were disqualified from holding public office for five years and 11 were disqualified indefinitely.

Mr Eric Barker, for the North-east Derbyshire party, and Mr Bernard Dix, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, argued that Labour councillors were encouraged by a decision of the 1972 party conference to refuse to implement the Conservative legislation and were told that if they did so and suffered penalties, a future Labour government would indemnify them.

## Unilateral disarmers fail in nuclear debate

Proposals are bluff. If they are, let us call that bluff at this conference.

British nuclear weapons were irrelevant, a deterrent and trivial compared with the mountainous stocks of the Americans and Russians.

Crust Roberts (prospective parliamentary candidate for Leeds, East) said she had been in Russia recently and she was convinced that a nation that was building itself up industrially and restoring its art treasures had no intention of declaring war on the rest of the world.

Lord Noel-Baker (City of Derby and Derby County), a Nobel Peace Prize winner, said only complete disarmament, nuclear and conventional, could save the world from a final nuclear war. "There is a new chance now," he said. "The Tories must be kept out of power. Let the Labour Government back President Carter."

Mr Stanley Newman (MP for Harlow) said there were already six nuclear powers and another 20 could join the club within a few years, including South Africa. "It is appalling that this country should be not only deeply involved in further nuclear expansion but also in the production of immovable aircraft carrier for American-owned missiles not even under our control," he said.

Mr. Ray Buckton (General Secretary of the National Union of Motor Vehicle Engineers and Firemen), moving the motion, said Britain had put itself in the position of being a nuclear super



## WEST EUROPE

## M Barre opens battle of words with the left

From Ian Murray  
Paris, Oct 7

M Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, last night gave up his role of economist-statesman and stepped back on to the national stage to play the part of a knuckl-dragging politician of the hussies. His quick-change act seems to have thrown the critics into confusion, especially those sitting on the left of the House.

Mr Barre made use of a television appearance to make a very political attack on the Union of the Left in general and the Socialist Party in particular.

This led M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, to complain today that the Socialist Party's behaviour was clearly helping M Barre and his Government to remain on stage beyond the next elections.

Mr Marchais, repeating his earlier gibe that the Socialist Party had taken a turn to the right, told a press conference that it was now on course to help President Giscard d'Estaing achieve his famous "centre left" of turning a "centre left" which would govern France.

"That means," the Communist leader said, "that Francois Mitterrand and the Socialists will carry the heavy responsibility of creating a situation where the forces of capitalism will know victory and the force of the people will know defeat. That would be to frustrate the workers and their families of the essential change that they have been waiting for and which the whole world agreed would be probable a few weeks ago."

Mr Barre, in his televised speech, tore into Mitterrand as "the Prince of Doubletalk". He made it clear that with the election drawing near, he is prepared to leave his previously carefully maintained position of political indifference for a slugging match with the Government's opponents.

Mr Mitterrand, he said, was mistaken. "He has chosen a bad economic and political strategy. I throw back at him the slogan that he has used against me: 'He excels in error and in failure'."

The breakdown of the Union of the Left, he said, "is an important and salutary event". It had dispelled a cleverly built and maintained edifice of doubletalk. "We were told there was a Union of the Left and a common programme. We have seen that the Union was only a facade and the programme was not common."

"You cannot conduct a strategy of foginess. You cannot eternally fondle the rose in the hand (an allusion to the Socialist Party emblem) and put the hand on the heart up his sleeve, assuming he wins it, if he is to remain as Prime Minister."

For all that, he is leading a Government that, if opinion polls are to be believed, is going to be extremely lucky to win the elections. Mr Barre is still refusing to set out his objectives for action for the election campaign.

The majority coalition have put together their manifesto, agreeing the broad principles of continued mutual co-operation. Mr Barre has promised that he will add his own chapter to this, putting forward the Government's programme for the next session if re-elected.

Having now allowed himself to become involved in a political knuckl-dragging, he cannot be long before he will find it necessary to make that programme known or he will find himself open to the damaging criticism that he is prepared to attack his opponents without having any policies of his own.

The Communist Party, which has become increasingly buoyant since the breakdown of talks over the common programme, is this weekend holding a special conference in Lyons to prepare for the elections. The party's opinion poll ratings, recently have never gone above 25 per cent and the delegates meet in the hope that they may benefit from the vote of disaffected Socialists.

Their leader, M Jean Lecanuet, said on television last night: "The hour of the Centre has arrived."



Princess Margaret waves goodbye to Venice where she has been on holiday.

## Mr Jenkins sees military danger if EEC countries drift apart

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Oct 7

Mr Jenkins, the European Commission President, said today that the Commission will improve its economic cohesion, it may well imperil Western Europe's military defences, Mr Roy Jenkins, the President of the European Commission, said here.

Speaking at a dinner, Mr Jenkins said that if the Community were to fall apart, and national states went their separate ways, the capacity of Europeans to contribute to the common defence would be gravely endangered. The Nato Alliance existed before the EEC, but Mr Jenkins doubted whether it could survive a disintegration of the Community.

Mr Jenkins was speaking to members of the Community to restore the Community on the road to economic and monetary union (EMU). A similar plea was made in a speech today in London by Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the former Conservative MP, who is now the Commissioner in charge of the EEC budget.

Taken together the speeches are seen as the first public shot in a campaign by the Commission to challenge the view generally held in EEC capitals—that in Mr Tugendhat's words—"a monetary union is a distant possibility towards which the Community cannot begin to make any progress until it masters both inflation and unemployment."

Mr Jenkins said last night: "We must relaunch with a newly defined relevance to the circumstances of the late 1970s the drive towards economic and monetary union. We must find ways of avoiding recourse to the danger of pseudo-solutions of national protectionism to threats to sensitive sectors of the economy."

Under the blueprint for EMU first drawn up in 1970, the EEC was to have moved by 1980 to the introduction of a single common currency and pooling of reserves. This was to have been accompanied by the progressive transfer of control over national monetary, credit and budgetary policies to a centralized Community bodies.

All that remains of these bold plans is the much attenuated "snake" joint float mechanism in which only the German, Danish and Benelux currencies still participate.

Speaking today to the Westminster Junior Chamber of Commerce, Mr Tugendhat said that the Commission's purpose was "to provoke serious examination" of the thesis that "far from it being necessary to wait for the Community to overcome its economic problems before moving to a single currency, the relatively speedy introduction of such a currency would itself greatly assist in solving them."

A single European currency would be a far more substantial and stable element on the international exchange system than the existing separate national currencies, Mr Tugendhat argued. It would not only have a steady effect on world trade conditions, but would "also remove the present constraints on constant management, expenditure by member states with balance-of-payments problems."

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## OVERSEAS

## President Carter blames oil lobby for the demolition of his energy policy by Congress

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Oct 7

President Carter said this morning that if his energy policy is destroyed by the Senate he will try again next year. He hinted that he might veto any legislation which did not conform to the programme he presented last April as "the moral equivalent of war", and said that his proposals were designed to avert "an almost inevitable crisis".

He also issued a warning against the oil lobby, whose shadow, he said, is hovering over Capitol Hill. "If indeed, it has been the oil lobby that he has been fighting, it has scored a notable victory. Mr Carter's energy policy is in ruins and the hope that it might be salvaged grows dimmer with every passing day, each of which brings some new disaster."

When he announced the policy, at a joint session of Congress and in broadcasts to the nation last April, it was assumed that the Administration was in for a fight in Congress, but the energy policy was not to be postponed until the energy Bills were out of the way.

If the main provisions of the energy programme are now defeated, the legislative achievements of this session of Congress will seem remarkably slight. The President has secured permission, for his

Department of Energy, a reshuffle of various agencies under the direction of Mr James Schlesinger, to reorganize energy administration, and not much else.

The energy programme was divided into six separate Bills by the Senate, and, one after another, they have been destroyed or emasculated. After a long filibuster, the Senate defeated the President's attempt to extend federal controls over the price of natural gas and, instead, passed a Bill freeing any new discoveries of gas from price control.

The Senate finance committee has been consistently hostile to the tax provisions of the programme, refusing to pass a Bill imposing a tax on domestic oil, and has now passed a Bill of its own forbidding the President to increase the tax on oil imports.

Yesterday the committee, in a moment of delighted candour, passed a motion, by nine votes to three, on the desirability of achieving the President's proposed reduction in oil imports "not through taxes but through tax credits, tax moratoria and incentives".

The United States now imports about half the oil it consumes, a far higher proportion of a higher total than at the time of the Arab oil boycott in 1973, which caused such consternation. The oil lobby has now persuaded the Senate finance committee that, if it is left alone, it can increase production enough to meet the

President's target of reducing imports by 4,500,000 barrels of oil a day.

Loyalists on the committee, including its chairman, Senator Russell Long, have been trying to get Bills resembling the ones the President wants out of the committee, and have failed so far even the effort yesterday.

Senator Long tried to push out the Bills in whatever state they were in and leave their fate to the joint committee of the two Houses. He said there would then be a chance that the joint committee would produce Bills acceptable to the President and to Congress, but the White House is hard put to pretend to believe him.

Even this counsel of desperation has been sidetracked, the President's supporters assume the Bill acceptable to both House and Senate would be produced by the joint committee.

If it resembled the House Bill, which is more or less what the President wanted, the Senate would turn it down. The leaders of the House, notably Mr Thomas P. O'Neill, the Speaker, have already said they will defeat any legislation on energy prices and taxes resembling the Bills now coming through from the Senate.

The energy policy's advocates, therefore, making a last effort at compromise in the Senate. Their chances are not rated very highly.

## Governor of Maryland is jailed for four years

From Michael Leppman  
New York, Oct 7

Baltimore, Oct 7.—Mr Marvin Mandel, the Governor of Maryland, was sentenced today to four years in a federal prison and stripped of his office for mail fraud and racketeering.

Mr Mandel, who is 57, was sentenced to four years for each of 15 counts of mail fraud and racketeering count, with all sentences to run concurrently. Judge Robert Taylor said Mr Mandel's "disgraceful and paralytic" would be under normal standards, meaning that he would probably have to serve at least one year in prison.

Mr Mandel addressed the court before he was sentenced, saying that he had always been committed to the people of Maryland but offering no apology for his actions.

"I spent over half my life in public life," he said. "Now my whole life is in disarray. I have lost my life's work."

He told the judge: "I know you have a very difficult and sad chore to do and I am prepared to (accept) your judgment."

Mr Mandel could have been fined \$50,000 for racketeering, but the judge quoted newspaper reports that the former Governor was bankrupt and imposed no fine.

Mr Mandel told the court: "It is a fact that I am insolvent, from the point of view of physical assets. But I am not insolvent in the eyes of the law. There are more important things than money and property."

The prosecution said Mr Mandel influenced race course legislation to benefit the defendants as payment for their gifts. The money was given by Mr Mandel to finance his divorce.

Mr Barner Skolnik, the Assistant United States Attorney, urged the court to show no mercy to Mr Mandel.

Judge Taylor overturned one count of racketeering of which three codefendants were convicted but upheld another. He also dismissed two counts of the mail fraud conviction of Mr Mandel, who was, however, convicted of accepting more than \$250,000 in gifts from his codefendants.—UPI

Three leave board of Australian press group  
Melbourne, Oct 7.—Three directors, including the vice-chairman, Sir Edward Cohen, resigned yesterday from the board of the Herald and Weekly Times Ltd, one of Australia's biggest publishing and broadcasting groups. No reasons were given.—Reuters

Coup plot claim as Uganda celebrations begin  
Nairobi, Oct 7  
Uganda today began celebrations marking the fifteenth anniversary of the country's independence, which falls on Sunday. Today there was a degree ceremony at Makerere University, Kampala and prayers in mosques throughout the country.

President Amin will present an anniversary address to the nation on Sunday, but there will be no big parades and demonstrations this year. Uganda's main celebrations now take place on the anniversary of the military coup on January 25.

President Amin claims to have received details of a plan by a group of Ugandan exiles to overthrow him, with the support of the British Government. Uganda radio said the exile group, which includes the former Ugandan Health Minister, Mr Henry Kyemba, who recently fled to Britain, were plotting to "recolonize" Uganda for 25 years since President Amin was overthrown.

The radio quoted President Amin as saying the United States, South Africa and Israel all supported the plot. But he said it could not succeed as Uganda's army was capable of repelling any invasion.

Britons and other expatriates working in Uganda's industries have been ordered to leave by President Amin tomorrow, with the Ugandan managers of these industries. But earlier plans to hold the meeting in the Kampala conference centre have been changed and it will now take place on an island in Lake Victoria.

The expatriates have been asked to take sports clothes to enable them to play basketball, a favourite sport of President Amin, on the island.

It is expected that he will exert them to make greater efforts to revive production in Uganda's industries, many of which have lost most of their output since their former Asian owners were expelled in 1972.

## Vatican call for more freedom of religion

From Richard Davy and  
Dessa Trevisan  
Belgrade, Oct 7

A panorama of different aspects of East-West relations unfolded here today as the last of the 35 speeches reviewing the Helsinki Agreement would to a close. There were contributions from the Vatican, Hungary, East Germany, Malta, Monaco, Belgium, Italy, Cyprus, Denmark and Ireland. The record for brevity was broken by the delegate from Monaco, who spoke for five minutes about marine pollution.

Mr Achille Silvestrini, speaking for the Vatican, appealed for arms reductions and drew up a balance-sheet of good and bad experiences since the signing of the Helsinki Agreement. The Holy See, he said, attached prime importance to religious freedom, but showed no less interest in other fundamental rights of man.

In the religious sphere there had been encouraging developments in contacts between churches and confessional groups and in facilities for travel, pilgrimages and religious visits to Rome.

There had also been concessions to religious communities to publish prayer books and catechisms and to import thousands of religious publications. There had been no obstacles to certain religious radio programmes such as transmissions of Vatican radio.

However, on the question of religious freedom inside states there was a continuing multiplication of appeals and testimonies often grossly exaggerated because the situation in various regions was still far from a normal life of sufficient freedom. There were complaints about difficulties in the way of religious education and restrictions on pastoral activity.

The Hungarian delegate concentrated mainly on economic cooperation and said there was still no significant improvement in trade relations. He complained about delays in granting visas and other problems put in the way of Hungarians wishing to visit the West.

He also regretted that Western countries were not following Hungary's example in subsidizing the import of foreign literature, although the Helsinki Final Act obliges states to promote access by all to respective cultural achievements.

He said that Hungary fully guaranteed fundamental human rights "in accordance with the interests of its people, within the framework of the constitution".

Mr T. F. O'Sullivan, the leader of the Irish delegation, said that the sections of the Helsinki Agreement on human rights had special significance for his country. Irish people, conscious of their own history, during long periods of denial of religious and political and economic rights were central issues; regard the actual freedom to exercise and enjoy them as vital to a decent national society.

The delegates from Cyprus attacked Turkey for violating the Helsinki Agreement.

Retirement of Watergate cases judge  
Washington, Oct 7.—Judge John Sirica, whose courtroom control of the Watergate trials helped to unravel the Nixon political scandal, will retire from regular duty on the federal bench at the end of this month, the White House said today.

Judge Sirica, who is 73, sent President Carter a letter informing him of his decision to take "senior judge" status on the United States district court. Mr Carter accepted the decision and, in a letter to the judge, called him "a lasting symbol of unflinching devotion to duty."

"You have been given an opportunity afforded to few of us who enter public service to exhibit, at a time of the greatest difficulty in our system of government, the personal courage and wisdom needed to sustain it," he wrote.—UPI

Former Premier launches new right-wing party  
Athens, Oct 7  
Mr Stefanos Stefanopoulos, who was Greek Prime Minister for 16 months in the mid-1960s, has formed a new political group which he calls the National Party. He hopes to attract the disgruntled right-wing vote in next month's general elections.

A section of the conservative electorate has become alienated from the ruling New Democracy Party of Mr Konstantinos Karamanlis, whose progressive and tolerant policies have, for different reasons, upset members of the economic establishment as well as the royalists.

Mr Stefanopoulos, aged 77, today issued a manifesto giving four basic pledges evidently designed to satisfy these disenchanted groups: he proposed to reinstate Greece in Nato, to encourage business investment, to reprieve the imprisoned junta leaders, and to seek a revision of the Constitution of 1975.

Philadelphia enacts ban on pornography  
Philadelphia, Oct 7.—The city council yesterday passed a law against pornography. It was the culmination of a seven-month campaign that at one point saw councilmen raiding pornography bookshops with sledgehammers.

The ordinance, which civil liberties lawyers contend is unconstitutional, bans films, plays, books and magazines that show actual or simulated sex acts, genitalia or female breasts, unless the material has "serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value".—AP

Heavy pressure kills gold smuggler  
Athens, Oct 7.—A gold smuggler died in a taxi here last night, killed by the pressure of his own gold bars. The 20-year-old man was carrying the smuggled gold, which was worth \$77,000.—Agence France-Presse

## Envy 'causes dislike of Germans'

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, Oct 7

After the Italian Government's condemnation last night of extreme rightwing responsibility for recent political violence, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, points out in an interview published here today that fascism was not born in Germany nor is it limited to Germany.

Interviewed by the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica*, Herr Schmidt concedes that fascism reached its worst and most terrifying expression in Germany. Germans scarcely more than children would in the future still be called to account for Hitler, Auschwitz and other crimes.

But it was not acceptable that other countries which had tolerated fascism should dismiss their own past and unload on their German neighbours all the blame for the evil of the world. It should also not be forgotten that horrible crimes, not only war crimes but also crimes against humanity, had been perpetrated elsewhere during the past century.

He added: "Because I am







# Saturday Review

The large square room of Mr Morpurgo's car trudged us across the Thames and past the Houses of Parliament into the part of London south of Hyde Park, where the squares are faced with stucco and the tall houses are white cliffs round the green gardens; and the grey very cheerful. "Now we are near home," he said, "and I am quite looking forward to meeting my wife at luncheon. Though she has been back for two days I have hardly seen her. Unhappily her journey has given her one of those agonizing headaches which are the curse of her life. They make it absolutely impossible for her to talk to anybody, and while they last she simply has to shut herself up in her bedroom and pull down the blinds, and that's what she has been doing ever since she came back. We had a long talk together on her arrival, and suddenly the old pain started. No, no, there was no question of putting you off. I would have been quite ruthless in asking you to come another day if it has been necessary. But I asked her yesterday evening, and she said that if she dined in bed and took a sleeping draught she would be quite fit for the party today."

"Travel has been unlucky for you both lately," said Mamma. "You really looked quite ill when you came back from that Continental journey which you said you hadn't enjoyed." "Ah, yes," he sighed sobered by the memory. "But that, as you realized, was because of all the cooking in oil. See, this is where I live, the big house, the very big house, lying cross-ways at the corner of the square, and not at all in keeping. There is nothing one can do about that. As the Almighty pointed out to Job, nothing can be done about beheadings and leviathan. No, do not get out yet, the footman will open the door."

At those last words I was stricken with terror. Like all people brought up in households destitute of menservants, we regarded them as implacable enemies of the human kind, who could implement their ill-will by means of supernatural powers which enabled them to see through a guest's pretensions as soon as they let him into the house and to denounce him to the rest of the company without the use of speech. We hurried past the footman while our eyes on the ground and thus were unaware till we had entered the hall that this was not just a large house, such as we had expected Mr Morpurgo to possess, it was large like a theatre or a concert-hall. We stood washed by the strong light that poured from a glass dome far above us, on a shining floor set with a geometric pattern of black and white marble squares and triangles and crescents, a staircase swept down with the curve of a broad, silver waterfall; the walls were so wide that one took a tapestry where two armies fought it out on land round a disputed city in the foreground, and in the background two navies fought it out among an archipelago lying where a sea and estuary met; and on the facing wall a towering Renaissance chimney-piece rose into a stone forest honeycombed by several hunts. When Mr Morpurgo had had his hat and coat taken from him, he wheeled round and faced us, his little arms spread out, his little legs wide apart.

"Of course," he said gravely, "we have no need for a house as large as this, there are only five of us. But a man must have a house he can turn round in." We remained silent, and he went to Mamma and took her hand and kissed it. "Clare, you have brought up your children beautifully. Not one of them laughed. So I will tell you about this house, and why you must not laugh at it."

The butler and the footman all suddenly looked as remote as if they had taken a drug and shifted to another planet. They did not look like the devil I had expected; rather they recalled Shakespearean courtiers dealing with what must have been the chief problems of their lives, how to stand within curfew of their lordly betters and seem not to be listening, and how to find a stance which would carry them comfortably through soliloquies. "The truth is," said Mr Morpurgo, "I have too much house, as I am apt to have too much everything. But there is reason to be kind about the excess of this place. My father built it, because he was a Jew, one of a persecuted people, and he was entertained by King Edward the Seventh, on an occasion which really deserves to be remembered. Nobody said anything about it the other day when he died. I suppose it was impossible because we want to keep the peace among the nations. But it may in the future be remembered as an example of a thing that only a king could do, and a thing that you would not expect to be within the range of a Hanoverian king, for it had wit. As you are sure to know, the Tsar of Russia hates his Jewish subjects. He has been furiously anti-Semitic ever since the time when he was a young man travelling in Japan and a waiter who had gone mad hit him on the head with a heavy tray; and it does not merely happen that there are pogroms in Russia, they are promoted by the government, that is to say, by the Tsar. Well, when the Tsar came to England in 1896 the Prince of Wales administered a rebuke to his niece's young

husband. He invited him to spend a weekend at Sandringham, and when the Tsar got there he found that nearly all his fellow-guests were Jews. One of them was my father, and he was profoundly impressed. It is true that many people, on hearing this story, are less impressed, and point out that the Prince of Wales had borrowed a great deal of money from those Jews which he had never repaid. But such people are always Gentiles. We Jews know that there are many people who borrow money from us and do not repay it, and that it is not really very usual for such borrowers to make beautiful and courteous gestures in defence of our race. So my father, having been asked to Sandringham on this auspicious occasion, built this house, because he felt exalted and wanted to make a visible symbol that our race is honoured on earth as we have always been perhaps a little too certain that it is honoured in heaven. Therefore, children, think gently of this house, and forget as I try to forget that my father should really have understood that it is ridiculous to build in the Renaissance style with machine-cut stone."

He suddenly came to a halt and his smile faded. "Manning," he said, and the butler came forward. Mr Morpurgo pointed to a Homberg hat that was lying on the hall-table, and asked, "Does that mean that we have another guest for luncheon?"

"Yes, sir," said the butler. "Mr Weissbach is in the drawing-room."

Mr Morpurgo repeated, "Mr Weissbach? But why has he come? I did not ask him." He passed his hand across his forehead. "There must be some mistake. I must have asked him for another day. Yet I can't remember doing anything of the sort."

The butler licked his lips. "Mr Weissbach rang up this morning just after you left, sir, and said that he had just come back from abroad, and was very anxious to see you, and I put him through to Madam, who spoke to him and then told me there would be another guest for luncheon."

He spoke with glowing discretion. Mr Morpurgo seemed stupefied by what he heard. There was the same atmosphere that there used to be at school when there was trouble between the teachers. Only Mamma did not realize that something had gone wrong. Her eyes were wandering among the handsome valour of the lances and pennants on the armies in the tapestries, the compressed churches and palaces in the city they depicted; she was softly humming some music that seemed to her appropriate.

Mr Morpurgo continued to stare at the Homberg hat. At last he said, in the voice of a reasonable and unperturbed man, "It seems that my wife has arranged for you to meet Mr Mortimer Weissbach. An art-dealer, a famous art-dealer. Not one of the dealers I took you to see Clare, when we had your pictures to sell. He specializes in Italian art. God has thought fit to take the Holy Land away from my people, but of late years He has done much to compensate for this by giving some of them the quattrocento to cultivate instead. Come, let us go up my staircase, my enormous staircase."

He halted us on the landing. A single picture hung between two doors, presented with pomp, set in a gilt panel carved with pilasters and adjoining arch; a Madonna and Child painted in flat, bright colours with much gold. "My Simone Martini," he said tenderly. As he gazed on it he might have been sucking toffee. Shyly he added, "Hardly a painting, I've often thought, more a mosaic made of tiles taken up from the floor of heaven. New tiles. I've got another picture, my Gentile de Fabriano, who did the trick with some of the worn tiles from the same place. I don't know which I like better."

"Beautiful," Mamma murmured and passed into a trance. She opened her mouth, and Mr Morpurgo drew nearer to hear what comment his treasure had drawn from her. She said, "I wish my husband had been more interested in pictures. It would have given him such a nice rest from politics, and he would have enjoyed painting had he turned his mind to it; he had quite a feeling for painting."

"Indeed he had," said Richard Quin. "We have lots of sketch books of his, you know, with water-colours he did in Ireland and Ceylon and South Africa."

"There are those sketch-books now?" asked Cordelia in sudden panic. "We must not lose them, we lose everything."

"I have them, dear," said Mamma, and continued, "He had no ear for music, and anyway music would not have been right for him. But painting is a calm art, and he needs calm."

"Well, calm can come to a man in many ways," said Mr Morpurgo. "And what a family it is!" he groaned. "You look at a picture, and you appreciate it. I can see by the way you keep your eyes on this one that you get its form and its colours, yet they all turn into thoughts of Piers. But for you everything, absolutely everything, turns into thoughts of Piers, doesn't it?"

"You must forgive us," said Mamma, "we cannot help it."



Illustration by Franklin Wilson

## Lunch with Mr Morpurgo

by Rebecca West

And really—"she added impatiently, and then checked herself and smiled. For an instant she had supposed Mr Morpurgo was being silly, but of course he was so nice that it was wrong to admit that, even when it was true. "And really it isn't a fault. Even if it wasn't Piers we're talking about, and of course he stands head and shoulders above anyone else, isn't it natural for a wife to think of her husband, for children to think of their father?"

"Yes," agreed Mr Morpurgo. "It is natural. One might go further and say it is nearly the whole of nature." The idea seemed to please him. He warmed himself at it for a moment, then said gravely, "And now, come and meet the people of whom I naturally think. Come and meet my wife and daughter."

Now the butler, who had maintained his character as a Shakespearean courtier by moving a couple of paces, away from us with an air of withdrawing to another part of the forest, came forward and opened a door at a blank verse pace. We found ourselves in a large room which seemed to us glittering and confused. The light that streamed in from high windows was given back by chandeliers, broadened hangings, the glass on pictures and in display cabinets, and a number of crystal and silver chandeliers and tables stood several great screens of flowers, four or five feet high. At the end of the room, dark against a window, stood a group of people, from which after too long a pause, a tall and rounded figure detached itself. It was Mrs Morpurgo, and she was extremely surprised. She wore a hat; at that time all women of position wore hats when they entertained their friends to lunch. Her hat was huge, and

under it her thick ginger-gold hair was piled up in the shape of a Phrygian cap, and this gave her a preternaturally massive head, so it could clearly be seen that she had drawn it back, as people do when faced with something they simply cannot understand. Her body too was magnified by her puffed sleeves and her rich, self-supporting flounced skirt, and so the questioning shrug of her shoulders, the hesitation of her gait, were magnified too. It was nothing about us which startled her; her glance had not examined us. She seemed not to have expected anybody, anybody at all, to have come in by that particular door, and as there were two other doors in the room, and as the three young girls behind her were smiling as if they were witnessing a ridiculously familiar scene, I supposed that Mr Morpurgo obstinately entered this room by a door which for some reason should not be used, just as Papa always left the gas burning in his study when he went to bed.

But it was odd of Mrs Morpurgo to make a fuss about so small a matter at this moment, for her husband was caught up in solemn exaltation. If his eyes had met mine I would not have dared to smile. He said, "Hermione, this is my old friend, Clare Aubrey. His voice wavered, and he cleared his throat. "The wife," he explained, "of Piers Aubrey, whom I so much admire. And here are her Cordelia, and Rose and Richard Quin." As he slowly spoke our names he spread out his arms around us in a patriarchal gesture which announced his hope that his family and ours, should be welded together for ever in the shelter of his affection. But he immediately curbed his gesture. Had it been completed, it must have included within its scope Mr Weissbach,

who at that moment stepped from behind a pyramid of gladioli and roses and took up a position beside the young girls. The manner in which Mr Morpurgo exclaimed, "Ah, Weissbach!" conveyed too brutally just where the project of adoption he had declared left off. Though Mr Weissbach plainly did not need to be adopted since he was an elegantly dressed gentleman in middle life, silver-haired and neatly bearded and closely resembling King Edward the Seventh, he might well have felt hurt. Mr Morpurgo began again. "You remember, Hermione, I have so often talked of these young people," but the remark broke against the hard surfaces of his wife's cool bewilderment. His voice cracked, his hands made fluttering, coaxing movements, and then were still. He sighed something kind which could hardly be heard.

I had mistaken the cause of Mrs Morpurgo's surprise. We had not come into the room by the wrong door. But her husband had come into the room, and had brought us with him, and she was surprised by that, because everything her husband did struck her as inexplicable. This I realized very soon, for Mrs Morpurgo had no secrets. She controlled her words well enough, saying the same sort of things that the mothers of our schoolfellows expected her to say with them, but as she spoke, the truth was blared aloud by the intonations of her commanding voice, the expressions which passed over her face, legible as the words on a poster, and her vigorous movements. "This is Marguerite," she told my mother, "and this is Marie Louise, nearly grown-up, just grown-up, which should I say? Just like your Cordelia and Rose. Oh, yes, terribly dignified, aren't you, my pets? And here's our baby, Stephanie. Is your boy as young?" But her clear, protruding, astonishingly bright grey-green eyes were saying, "Well, I am doing what he wants, but why should he want me to do it? Who can these people be that he thrusts them on me?" She went on, "Ah, then there are three months between them, but he is inches taller," and her accents asked, "What can possibly come of it if I am an aid to them as he insists? We have nothing in common with them; how am I to carry on a relationship even if I begin it?" In the midst of a pleasant remark about Cordelia and myself she bit her lip in annoyance and shuddered. "It is always the same," she might as well have said aloud, "he never stops doing this sort of thing, it is insupportable."

Then her eyes flashed, she turned aside from us. "Edgar, my dear," she said, with the air of clearing up a little tangle in this disordered world that was being created about her against her will, and seeing to it that he should not make one of his absurd accusations that she was the one who muddled things, "you may be surprised to see Mr Weissbach here, but he rang up just after you went out, and specially wanted to see you because he's just this minute come back from Italy, where he's been picking up all sorts of lovely things, and I thought that as we were having Mrs Aubrey and her family to lunch, we would be delighted to see Mr Weissbach, too."

A coldness came into the genial smile that lived brilliantly and all the time between Mr Weissbach's neatly clipped moustache and pointed beard, and Mr Morpurgo put down his head as if his wife's speech had had an echo and he were listening to it with scientific interest. The extreme fatigue with which Mrs Morpurgo had uttered the last phrase could not have more clearly intimated that as her husband had insisted she should waste time to luncheon, Mr Weissbach, who also wanted to waste her time, might as well waste the same piece of time. Mamma regarded her with the pity she always extended to people under a special handicap, one of the daughters giggled, the tick of the ormolu clock on the mantelpiece sounded very loud. Mrs Morpurgo looked at her husband and her mother-in-law, and could have been foretold, "Again you are behaving incomprehensibly," she wondered silently, running a firm finger over her lips in affected doubt. "Why on earth could what I have just said have annoyed anybody?" Furiously she addressed my mother, "Will you not sit down?" and drew her to a chair beside the fireplace, and remained standing there, sometimes rocking back on her heels, as if the strangeness of what was happening to her had actually thrown her off her balance, while she impatiently engaged her in light conversation. She was splendid under the light from the high windows. Her face was unlined. Her skin was smooth and radiant like the surface of fine porcelain. It seemed to have something to do with her difficulty in apprehension.

I was left with her two elder daughters, at whom I smiled, for they had aroused my respect. They had escaped the ugliness of their father but they had not achieved the handsomeness of their mother; for she was handsome. Though she made war on ease by every word she said, she promised ease by the cushioned firmness of her flesh, the brilliance of her flesh, her eyes, and skin

and hair. But the girls were exquisitely neat in their blouses and bell skirts, neater than Cordelia. It is not clear to me that this is because they were dressed a lady's maid, so I imagine them to be delectable and precise. I saw them parting for the day in more lously tidy bedrooms clean by the cool morning light standing in front of the glass and stroking the blouses into the right flut at their waists, their beds almost undisturbed by night. I was disconcerted when they answered me with some which were certainly reserved and perhaps mocking. Cordelia had better luck, for I saw Weissbach talking to her as politely as if she were grown-up; I had expected it in Mr Morpurgo's house, I supposed that there people would take it for granted that they should make much of everybody they met. Richard Quin had asked Mr Morpurgo about a miniature on one of the tables, and Mr Morpurgo was answering, "It is interesting that you should want to know who that is. My husband's friend, his friend, Stephanie here is always named by him. He was a Ravian Marshal of Irish origin. Come here, Stephanie, and see Richard Quin, all you know about him." Then, too, I expected her to be happy, her harmless pederasty, his interest of knowledge which was as purely ornamental as flowers, unlike my father's kind of knowledge, which was a stock of fuel for crusade. But Marguerite and Marie Louise, who continued to be silent and look as if I amused them, were not what I expected. I had to own the Mary might be right. The world might have its reasons for its ways.

Mrs Morpurgo suddenly broke off her conversation with Mamma to remark in the voice of desperation itself, "Surely luncheon is very late!"

"No," said Mr Morpurgo coolly. "It is now three minutes before our usual hour."

"I could not have believed it," said Mrs Morpurgo. "But it is strange, time seems to pass so quickly at times, and so slowly at others. Well, a luncheon," she said, with a shrug, "it is a plan, it will be able to listen to Mr Weissbach telling us of all the treasures he found in Italy. It is with a light laugh, "to Mr Weissbach and to my husband, not to me. Can you have these stupid-looking stuff Mademoiselle and these ugly little Christ? And no perspective! What's a picture," her upturned eyes asked not only her family and her guests but the gilded and painted ceilings, "without perspective? Tell my husband that my Marie Louise can paint a better picture than all his Florentines and Siennese. But he won't believe me. He follows the fashion," she told Mamma. "I believe that some things are beautiful and other things are ugly, and that nothing can alter that. Nightingales and roses," she said to her husband, in accents suddenly sharp with hatred, "you'll be telling me next there's no beauty in them."

"There is Mamma, to tell us that luncheon is ready ten minutes early," said Mr Morpurgo softly and sadly.

When we left the room we were led across the landing to a room on the same floor, and he spoke from behind us. "Are we not to have luncheon in the dining-room?"

"We all agreed. The butler again reminded me of a Shakespearean courtier. Mrs Morpurgo replied, exercising again her faculty for surprise, "It never occurred to me that you would wish to lunch down there today."

"I should have liked to know Mrs Aubrey and the children the room and the Claudes and the Poussin," said Mr Morpurgo.

"The Claudes and the Poussins, perhaps, but why the room?" It was then that I saw a special about the room, except that it was very large."

"Mrs Morpurgo, wrinkling her nose. "But, oh, dear, oh, dear, we'll all go back to the drawing-room and wait until they move luncheon down to the dining-room? It could," she said, as if inviting the headman to use his axe, "be done. If, of course, you do not mind waiting."

"Our company includes six people below the age of nineteen," said Mr Morpurgo, pleasantly, "and there must be something wrong with them if they are not so hungry that snatching luncheon from under their noses would be sheer cruelty." Stephanie was hanging on his arm, and he suddenly drew her to him. He seemed to think she was the nicest of his daughters. Perhaps she was. She had been all right with Richard Quin. "Even this skinny little thing eats like a wolf. And Mr Weissbach and I have come to an age when we are hungry about our food and would prefer not to eat luncheon for twenty minutes. But next time the Aubreys come we must have luncheon in the dining-room. Will you remember, Manning?"

This extract is taken from an unpublished novel by Rebecca West, "Try Not to Weep", which will be published in the first issue of the new edition of "The Times" on November 10 at 10.50.

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## Gardening

## Ready for the chop?

Some years ago we had a special offer in *The Times* of conifers—fast and slow growing varieties. It was not a success. I wrote: "If you have an empty garden, border or rock garden why not do as I did 20 years ago?" I then went on to suggest that you plant some quick growing conifers and a few feet away some slow growing varieties that would take 10 to 15 years to reach their full height. In the meantime, the fast growers would have grown too big and would be removed.

I call this the doctrine of expendability and if you stop and consider, it makes a lot of sense.

I did not, unhappily, realize that few of my readers have empty gardens, borders or rock gardens and so they did not bother to read beyond the first sentence.

I only return to this subject now because I have seen so many dead trees and shrubs in gardens and a lot that are so mangy and moribund that they would be put on the bonfire.

As a nation we are kind to birds and animals and we can not bear to chop down a tree or shrub even when it is long past its best and indeed may have become an affront to anybody who knows what a healthy tree or shrub should look like.

So may I suggest a critical look at the garden, a hardening of the heart may be and a rooting out of trees or shrubs that are no longer any ornament to the garden. Then there is the exquisite and agonizing problem of what to plant to replace them. Each situation has to be dealt with individually.

For quick screening or to provide a wind break we have to go for a swift growing conifer like the green or gold form of *Cupressocyparis leylandii*, or *Chamaecyparis 'Green Hedger'*, *C. lawsoniana* *Lutes* or one of the other fast growing forms of Lawson's cypress. A conifer that I like very much and which is quite quick growing is *Cydonia japonica* 'Elegans' which will reach 10-15 feet in four or five years and stay at that height. Its foliage turns a rusty red in autumn and goes back to green in the spring—very interesting.

Cuttings of it root easily enough and I always had one or two plants coming along to replace any that were lost for their lodgings. The type plant *C. japonica* itself will grow 50 feet in time. By now there is a good stock of the dawn cypress, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* in the trade and this is a fairly fast grower, revelling in a moist, even a boggy situation, but growing albeit more slowly in dry soils. My tree is now more than 30 years old and only 20 feet high, but to be fair it was moved four times!

In recent years I have become very attached to golden and variegated trees—those with green and silver foliage. A particular favourite is *Robinia pseudacacia* 'Frisia' which makes a small to medium sized tree up to about 30 feet with an eventual spread of 10-15 feet. It has bright, golden leaves all summer and is particularly bright as autumn approaches.

Another charming tree about the same size and fine for the small garden is *Acer negundo* 'Variegatum' with white and green foliage. I think we could

with advantage plant more acers, or maples as they are commonly called, especially some of those which give vivid autumn colouring such as *A. japonicum* which turns a T. scarlet and *A. ginnala* which obtains a splendid rich crimson hue in a good autumn.

Looking over some notes I made back in the spring, I see I intended to mention the Cornelian cherry, *Cornus mas*. It is more of a shrub than a tree, eight to 12 feet and rather less across, but it is a great asset in the early months—February to April—when it covers its bare branches with small clusters of yellow flowers.

Another small tree that also flowers on the bare branches but not until April or May is the Judas tree *Cercis siliquastrum*. The type plant has purple flowers and there is a rather rare white variety.

Magnolias should also, I feel, be planted more often. The genus contains splendid shrubs and trees for gardens large and small in country or town—indeed *Magnolia soulangeana* I have seen flourishing on New York's Fifth Avenue which must be one of the most polluted thoroughfares in the world, in front gardens in the heart of Manhattan and in many other cities. The dwarf shrub *M. stellata* about eight to 10 feet high and across is fragrant, very free with its white flowers in March and April; there are several varieties and one worth seeking out is 'Rosea', with pink flowers.

Where there is plenty of space and you have patience plant *M. campbellii* which in time will make a large tree. Unfortunately it will not produce its large flowers, white, pink, or red in the different varieties until it is 20 to 30 years old.

The superb evergreen *Magnolia grandiflora* is more accommodating. It is usually grown against a wall and will reach 10-15 feet with a similar spread. The huge creamy white flowers appear from July to September. It may also be grown as a free standing bush or tree in a sheltered sunny corner.

Young tree lovers could also plant a *Liriodendron tulipifera* which will eventually reach 25 feet and bear masses of yellow bell-like flowers in July, but not until it is 15 years old or more.

The dove tree, *Pouter handkerchief* or *ghost tree*, *Davidia involuta*, drapes itself with pairs of white bracts in May, that look like dove's wings or pouter's hands. It is a neat round headed small tree and should be planted so that it can be seen against a dark background. It is not fussy about soil, is perfectly hardy, but will take perhaps 10 years before it obliges with pocket handkerchiefs.

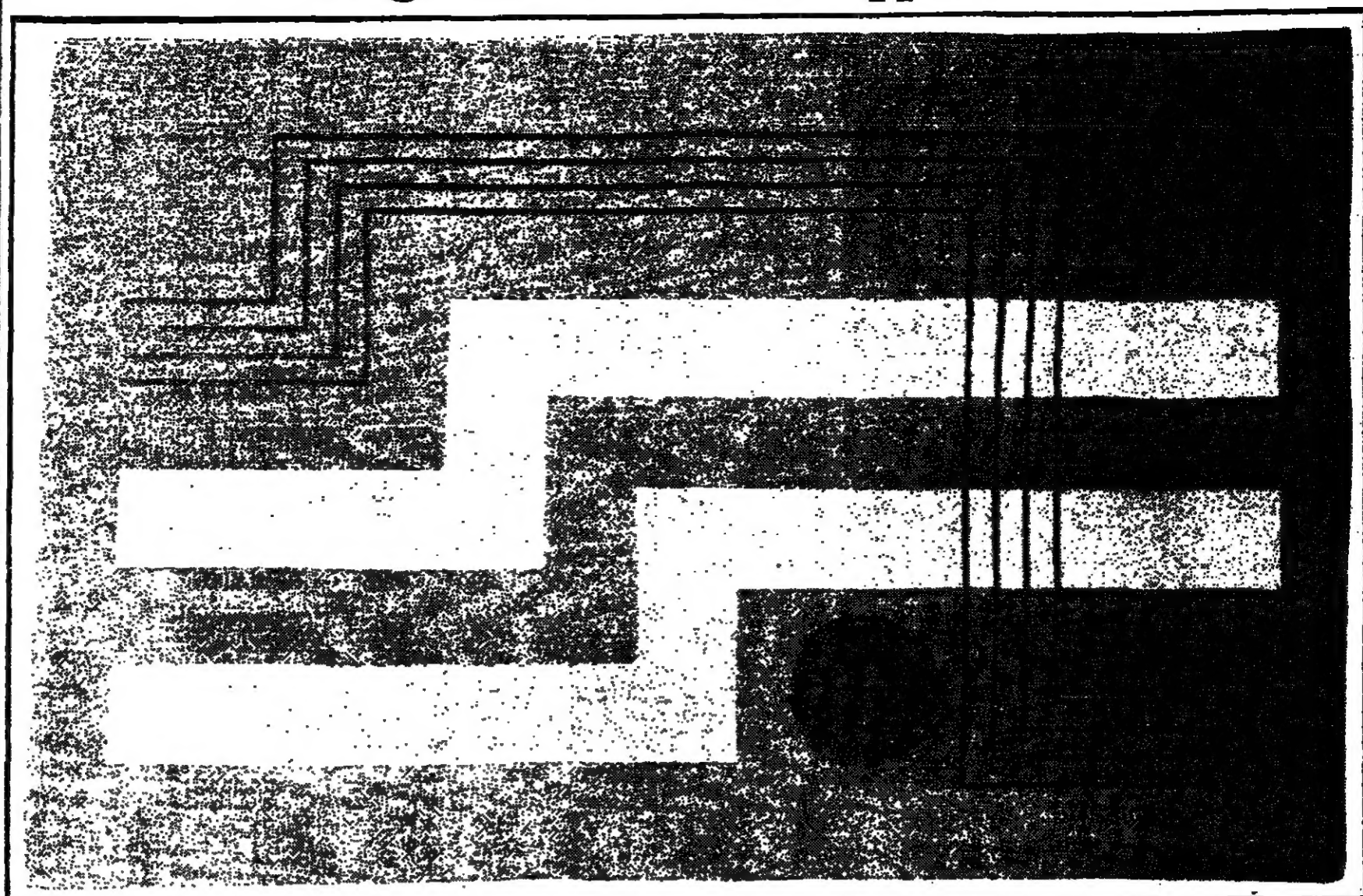
Of course, if you are in a hurry to have flowering trees in blossom you have the whole range of flowering cherries, crab apples, laburnum and among the shrubs, *Wiacs*, *philadelphus*, *ribes*, *weigela*, *escalonia*, *genista* and many more that I have written about so many times.

Since writing about fruits recently, several readers have asked for a source of supply of maiden trees, ie one-year-old trees, which they can train into various forms. Mr Michael Pirie, 82 Kingston Road, Oxford, OX2 6RJ, supplies certified trees and apples and pears as maidens and also supplies maiden plum trees which are not certified but have been inspected for sterility disease.

Roy Hay

## Collecting

## Rugs with an abstract appeal



A hand-knotted rug made in China for Betty Joel

Crown Copyright, Victoria and Albert Museum

During the 1920s and 1930s an unusual art form appeared in Europe—the Modernist rug. Despite the new directions and new requirements of interior design, the signed rug, which became a focal point in the decoration of a room, was something of a freak event, and despite the activities of the weaving workshops of the Bauhaus, or the Omega Workshops in England, it drew its inspiration from new sources. Already the innovative impetus of such Victorian designers as Owen Jones had been forgotten in a recoil from the eclectic clutter of that era and an enthusiasm for the exciting liberation of the abstract designs of Cubism.

The first real influence on English designers probably came from the 1925 Paris Exhibition, which showed several Modernist rugs: the abolition of the border and the use of a white, or natural off-white, background lent a revolutionary free space for the outward, internal movement of abstract designs, which in turn emphasized the medium. E. McKnight Kauffer, an American who had first introduced Cubism into poster design, led by the fabric designer Marion Dorn to see the possibilities inherent in carpet weaving, was the first influential designer in England. His carpets, woven by Mrs. Jean Orage, an Irishwoman living in Chelsea who dived all her own wools, and then, in 1928, by the Wilton Royal Carpet Factory.

Wilton Royal's championing of hand-tufted signed rugs (the "Wessex" rugs) was a courageous move during the economic slump of the time, but they continued to commission Marion Dorn, Marjorie Pepler, John Tandy, Ronald Grierson and others into the 1930s. In 1932, after a meeting in Düsseldorf between Alistair Morton, of the Carlisle carpet and textile firm of Morton Sundour, and Hans Aufseuer (later Tisdall), the "Edinburgh Weavers" was set up with the conscious intention of evolving decorative fabrics suited to modern civilization, and, in particular, textiles more in tune with modern architectural styles. Several artists designed fabrics and carpets for them, such as Paul Nash, Ben Nicholson, Jean Varda and John Tandy, as well as the designers Marion Dorn, Terence Prentiss and Ashley Havinden.

Although Heal's, Simpsons, Liberty and Fortnum & Mason, who commissioned special "off-the-peg" designs from Marion Dorn and at one time devoted an entire floor to Modernist designs, did sell these rugs, many designers were dependent on small galleries to sell their work.

Betty Joel, whose rugs were woven for her at Tientsin in China, had her own showroom, Betty Joel Ltd, at 25, Knightsbridge; rugs by Francis Bacon were sold at Green & Abbott of Wigmore Street; Alan Watson Fabrics Ltd sold the work of Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant, woven

by the Blind Employment Factory; Ronald Grierson, his rugs woven in India, held a one man show at the Redfern Gallery in Cork Street in 1936, which sold out, despite opening on the day of Edward VIII's abdication; Arundel Clark's "Gem" in Chelsea and Duncan Miller Ltd were also notable showrooms. Probably the two most important exhibitions were those of Evelyn Wajda's work at the Curtis Moffat Gallery and of Da Silva Brubus at Betty Joel Ltd in 1930-31, allowing new designers to admire both the design and real craftsmanship of their work.

Although the cost and difficulty of hand weaving these rugs meant that they were necessarily expensive, one-off items, it was as much the attitude of the various designers themselves, many of whom were primarily artists rather than weaver artisans, which established these rugs as art objects, signed works. Ronald Grierson is the only designer who has supported his family solely by his continued work as a carpet designer. I talked to John Tandy last winter, and he explained that to many artists their carpet designs were more inspired by the experimental atmosphere of the time in Europe which encouraged the feeling that pure art could be practically applied to any medium, than by any overall decorative concepts. And perhaps it could be said that the work of Marion Dorn, for example, was less original in an artistic sense; she was an interpreter within

the medium of home decoration rather than an intellectual designer; and it is in that area that a distinction could be made in evaluating these rugs, between those designed from an artist's point of view and those created from an interior decorator's within a general scheme.

Within the scope of interior decoration, which now laid stress on plain surfaces, light colours and congruity, the rugs did form the nucleus of the overall effect of a room, taking the place of a picture on the wall. In the era of the "all white room", originated by Da Silva Brubus, the rug took pride of place. Many of the changes in decor at this time, well represented at the Dorland Hall exhibition in 1933, were due as much to social pressures, as women moved out of the home and servants became a rarity, as to the influences of the new demand on decorative schemes such as Hollywood sets or the "Cunard" lines, which extended into hotels, cocktail lounges or cinemas. Where earlier decorative themes in England, such as the work of Omega, were earnest, serious and above all innovatively intellectual, these designs were dynamic and artistic and represent an aspect of English design which is almost uncharacteristic. As was said, somewhat obliquely, of some of the French rugs: "Il n'y a pas plus de peinture dans ces tapis que de littérature dans le Cubisme." The most successful rugs are those with the

purest, non-representational (unless surreal) designs.

Although it is difficult at the moment to find good quality signed rugs, partly because many must still be in the hands of their original owners, several have been on the market. Prices in Sotheby's have been between £400 and £500 for signed carpets; a good Marion Dorn, Marjorie Pepler or slightly newer, Betty Joel, would be between £650 and £750; rugs by John Tandy and Ronald Grierson have not been seen often so prices have not been established. The highest prices are fetched by McKnight Kauffer rugs, which can vary from £800 to £3,000, depending on size, quality and design. Other rugs by unknown designers, often French, and the many machine-made, debased designs of the time also come up.

The people to contact for the signed rugs are Michael and Jacqueline Fruskin at Antiquarius Market in the King's Road, Chelsea, who organized the exhibition of Modernist rugs at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, in 1975. The Victoria and Albert Museum have also purchased several rugs by McKnight Kauffer, Marion Dorn and Betty Joel, which are well worth taking a look at, though by appointment with the Textiles Department.

## Isabelle Anscombe

The author has contributed the European section of *Rugs and Carpets of the World*, to be published by Quarto this autumn.

## Bridge

## A case of careless defence

It is commonly asserted that defence is more difficult than dummy play; I doubt that this is true, except in those contracts where a defender rejects his partner's guidance and gives the declarer an opportunity to shine which should never have come his way. Two mistakes are continually made; they appear in the form of bad discards, accompanied sometimes by premature ruffing and of failure to select a neutral lead at the appropriate time.

Here is a typical combination of mistakes which gave away a game.

East-West game; dealer West:

West	North	East	South
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♠ A K Q J	♠ A K Q J	♠ A K Q J
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ A K Q J	♥ A K Q J	♥ A K Q J
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ A K Q J	♦ A K Q J	♦ A K Q J
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ A K Q J	♣ A K Q J	♣ A K Q J

West led the ♠K followed by the ♠A; declarer ruffed and drew two rounds of trumps. East discarding a club. South next led a heart, and by following with the ♠9 West gave his partner the impression that he wished to win the trick—possibly because he held third trump. West should have been able to see that he had no effective lead other than a diamond, his partner having discarded a club; but he was unable to anticipate the danger from playing a heart. He forced a trump from dummy and with no alternative line of attack declarer led the ♠10, dropping East's ♠9 and discarding a diamond from his hand; the ♠8 now provided a home for South's remaining diamond loser.

Who was the more at fault, East who discarded the ♠9 or his partner who ignored his request for a diamond? I should describe West as the principal culprit, although his partner could have anticipated what might happen if West did not understand the meaning of his discard. I have read a great many books on defence, but few of the authors stressed the importance of intermediate cards in giving guidance. A similar elementary mistake which is less obvious to West when he does not visualize the declarer's trump suit arises from a premature over-ruff.

North-South game and 30. Dealer West:

West	North	East	South
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♠ A K Q J	♠ A K Q J	♠ A K Q J
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ A K Q J	♥ A K Q J	♥ A K Q J
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ A K Q J	♦ A K Q J	♦ A K Q J
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ A K Q J	♣ A K Q J	♣ A K Q J

West's double may be described as a reasonable bid at the score and East, who is not ashamed of his opening, is glad to leave it. Play followed normal lines, West opening the ♠Q succeeded by the ♠6 to the ♠K. East returned the ♠A ruffed by South with the ♠10 and over-ruffed with the ♠J. West led the ♠A and a second club, but the rubber was lost. Declarer can draw the remaining trumps and dispose of his losing club by taking the spade finesse. West missed his chance of developing a fifth trick by losing on loser play, discarding the ♠6 and relying upon his partner for an honour in trumps. He should have been aware that East was unlikely to produce the ♠A after making a preemptive opening.

In my final hand the defender on lead needed more foresight than is shown by most players. No score; dealer South:

West	North	East	South
♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♠ A K Q J	♠ A K Q J	♠ A K Q J
♥ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♥ A K Q J	♥ A K Q J	♥ A K Q J
♦ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♦ A K Q J	♦ A K Q J	♦ A K Q J
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♣ A K Q J	♣ A K Q J	♣ A K Q J

After cashing his ♠K and ♠A West switched to the ♠Q which held the trick, and then to the ♠J ruffed by South. Declarer entered dummy twice with trumps, ruffing first a club and then the losing diamond. He returned to dummy with the ♠Q, played the ♠A, and squeezed East out of his heart trick. An early trump lead by West in place of his aggressive ♠Q would have provided a timely defence to declarer's dummy reversal.

Edward Mayer

Special offer  
Gardener's friends

Autumn is supposed to be the start of the gardener's year, when we put behind us the disappointment of the past 12 months and look forward to superb results next year. But first we have to clear up the mess nature has left us with this year, and here are a few items of equipment to help us do it with the minimum of effort.

The first is a "humper-dumper", which is a square sheet, 5 feet by 5 feet, of rot-

proof polypropylene plastic with ropes as handles, also of polypropylene, sewn to each corner. It is tough, hard wearing plastic. After use you just hose off any muck and leave it to dry. It enables you to pick up leaves, grass mowings and other debris from awkward places where it is difficult to manoeuvre a barrow or truck.

It may also be stored flat in a shed and does not take up room, like a truck or barrow. You can tie or loop the corner ropes together and sling the whole thing over your shoulder, leaving one hand free to carry tools.

The nylon/fibreglass ratchet pruner weighs only 4oz. The blades are coated with Teflon to give longer life. By using the ratchet action, that is cutting

through a branch by easy stages, this long pruner will cut through a 4-in branch with ease.

It does not need oiling, and when it becomes a bit grubby you just wash it thoroughly with a little detergent in the water.

There are plenty of incinerators on the market but many of them suffer from the disadvantage that the base is a fixed, welded part of the whole contraption. Eventually the base burns out and the whole thing is a write-off. In the incinerator we offer here, the base is a separate component and can be replaced when it is burnt out. The incinerator is 25in high and 20in square, holding 4 cubic feet of rubbish.

Many people quietly curse the autumn leaves because they have to bend over hundreds of times to pick them up and toss them into the barrow, or on to the "humper-dumper". The Gripper cuts out the stooping. It is like giant sugar tongs, made of lightweight aluminium, and for anybody with a back that aches if asked to do more bending than usual, it is a god-send.

These four aids really make a lot of the hard graft out of the annual garden clearing up. I would hate to be without any of them—indeed at almost any season of the year.



To order, complete the coupon in block letters. This offer is open to readers in the UK only. Delivery within 28 days from receipt of order. Queries, not orders, to David Sharpe on 01-837 7951, extn. 15. Send to: Times Autumn Gardening Offer, Selective Marketplace Ltd., 18 Ogle Street, London W1R 7LG.

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George Hutchinson

# Are communicators really necessary to bang the drum for the Tories?

A treasure he may or may not be: Dr John Treasure, a notable of the advertising world who has become chairman of what is chillingly called an "overall communications strategy committee" in the Conservative Party. Two related committees have also been formed, one to advise on "creative approach", the other charged with "media planning".

Thus the Tories advance towards the Madison Avenue manner of electioneering. Whether this will increase their electoral prospects, or how much it may reduce them, time and experience will tell.

"Communications" is the word today, if you want to be in the swim. Even Mrs Thatcher has succumbed to its use when discussing her party's information and publicity services, whose head is now entitled "director of communications", as if he were a sort of radio engineer or signals officer.

Be that as it may (or rather be that as it is), these services are very important, supporting and complementing the guidance, explanation and encouragement expected of political leaders in their own

utterances. But they can never become a substitute for direct personal appeal. If a party's principal figures could not themselves address the public in such a way as to make their policies understood and attract approval they would indeed be in serious straits, and no amount of technical assistance could save them from the consequences.

"Action not Words" was perhaps the most inept slogan ever devised by the Conservative Party. Words are the stuff of politics, the heart of the matter. If a politician, great or small, cannot explain his principles and programme intelligibly he is scarcely a politician at all and ought to find some other outlet for his energies. Real political leadership cannot be exercised at any level without some gift of expression allied, of course, to other qualities.

Mrs Thatcher is right, nevertheless, in her determination to strengthen the party's "communications", which are certainly in need of improvement. The aim is unexceptionable. Whether it can best be achieved or should even be attempted by reliance on marketing methods is disputable. What I firmly believe is that it would not be achieved by

resorting to extravagant expenditure on advertising, a course more likely to repel than reassure.

In Mrs Thatcher, it may be said, the Tories have a leader with a natural aptitude for exposition. They could hardly have enjoyed such a run of by-election successes if this were not so. Mrs Thatcher speaks with lucidity, candour and conviction. Under the influence of her example, political discussion has been liberated and enlarged, and there is, I believe, a greater awareness of the essential issues of public policy, of the fundamental differences separating the Tories from their opponents. She stimulates debate. She encourages thought.

If Conservative prospects appear to be slipping a little, this is because the decline in the Government's fortunes, so marked recently as June, has been checked, at least for the present. The economy may or may not be on the mend, day in day out, ministers maintain that it is, and many people are ready to take them at their word, such is the human disposition to prefer hope to despair.

That is one aspect of the

outlook confronting the Tories. There are others. We might take note of some of them as Mrs Thatcher enters the third party conference of her leadership, opening in Blackpool next week.

While the party in Parliament is not short of talent—there is more than enough to form a good government—it has lost a number of outstanding members in recent years for one reason or another (and I am not thinking of those who have retired on grounds of age). Some are former ministers—Edward Boyle, now Lord Boyle of Handsworth and vice-chancellor of Leeds University, Anthony Barber, now Lord Barber, banker, Mr David Lane has gone; Mr Jack Bruce-Gardyne is not yet restored; Mr Humphry Berkeley has joined the Labour Party.

But the foremost loss—the irreplaceable loss—is that of Mr Enoch Powell, the supreme political orator of his day and generations with his classic and compelling power of persuasion. Mr Powell continues to exercise great influence, but no longer (alas) in the Tory interest.

Then there is the absence of Mr Heath from the higher

councils of the party. Again, it seems incredible, past belief. I am Mr Heath's biographer. Had I written, seven years ago, that within such a space of time he might cease to occupy a place in the Tory hierarchy you would have been entitled to dismiss me as fanciful, even crazy. Yet this has happened, however improbably, and is widely regretted. Mr Heath is assured of a warm welcome when he addresses the Conservative Political Centre at its conference meeting in Blackpool next Wednesday, speaking on the future of Europe. There are many who would wish to see him seated again at the top table, to which he is so accustomed.

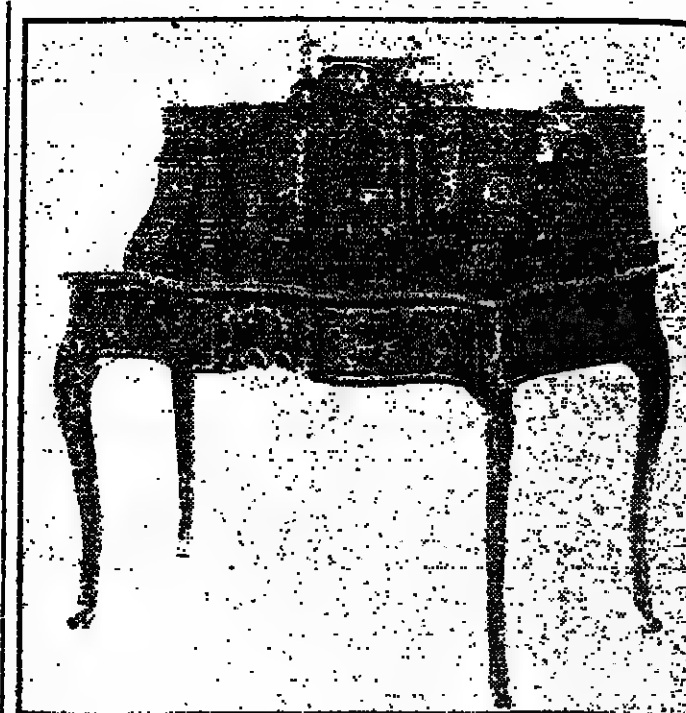
Nor are Mr Peter Walker's abilities fully engaged. There must surely be a role for him, perhaps in the party organization, now impaired by the absence of the chairman, Lord Thorneycroft, who is seriously ill. Organizational, the Tories have suffered a succession of misfortunes at 32 Smith Square. Among the treasurers, Lord Chelmer has retired and Lord Ashdown has died, leaving only Mr Alistair McAlpine, for whom Mrs Thatcher must soon find a new partner of suitable standing, an appointment not

easily filled. Sir Richard Webster, Mr Gerald O'Brien and Mr Russell Lewis are no longer present in other departments.

Mrs Thatcher would be well advised to give some personal attention to the Conservative Central Office, constitutionally the political office of the leader of the party, although at times you might not think so.

As for Dr Treasure and his "communicators", they could hardly do better than read Sir Ian Gilmour's new book *Inside Right* (Hutchinson, £5.95), a work of the first importance to an understanding of the Tory Party. It is to be published on Monday, and matches his earlier study, *The Body Politic*. Among other things, Sir Ian now discusses on some of the Conservative philosophers—and proves in the process that he himself has entered their ranks. By his own gifts of intellect, insight and application he has joined a most distinguished line of political thinkers. That a book of such quality should be written by a member of her Shadow Cabinet can be nothing but a source of pride to Mrs Thatcher.

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## A table worth reserving

Unless some miracle occurs before next Tuesday, a table at Christie's entirely devoted to fragments of old furniture which were presumably sold for re-use in this manner. The best documented example in this field is at present one Edward Holmes' desk. He supplied his rich, noble and even royal clients, in line with their antiquarian tastes.

Antiquarian interest was spread over the whole range of historical styles. The "Gothick" style is perhaps the best known with pastiche pieces made up of fragments of old oak carvings; neo-classical pastiches incorporating bits and pieces of classical antiquities are part and parcel of the same approach.

The table *mechanique* belongs to the pastiche style that modern furniture historians have laughingly dubbed "Louis Louis", a nostalgic evocation of the grandeur of the Ancien Régime. They illustrate the taste for "marqueterie", German as well as French, there are other distinguished examples of the use of German panels. And significantly they demonstrate that in the 1830s there were designers, cabinet-makers and marqueters capable of extending or recreating eighteenth-century pieces with supreme skill.

The table was made in England at this time, possibly by Beldock or possibly by John Webb, who seems to have been equally important in the field. It was made for either the first or second Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, the first collector on the grand scale, the second one of the most spectacular bankruptcies of the nineteenth century.

As a result of his private extravagance in preparing Stowe for a Royal visit in 1845, all his estate and possessions were sold. The Stowe sale conducted by Christie's in 1848 lasted 40 days and was the greatest dispersal of works of art of the century. It was there that the table *mechanique* was bought for £246 15s. R. R. Forester's annotated catalogue of the sale records that "the cabinets distributed throughout the mansion this was decidedly the most superb." In other words, in 1848 this was one of the most highly regarded pieces of furniture in the country.

It was a superb piece of cabinetmaking. The piece is in perhaps best conveyed by Sotheby's catalogue: "Ornate mounted table *mechanique*... with elaborate, rococo marquetry, partly inlaid with silver, and the central cupboard flanked by four Corinthian columns encased in silver-gilt, the door set with a finely wrought silver-gilt plaque of the Triumph of Ceres and Bacchus, attributed to Thomas Andrew Tabor (1654-1734) and on each side a pair of heron and peacock metal Cypriotes on a base of silver-gilt. The *mechanique* part of the table is an arrangement of pure human and springs opening secret drawers.

V & A have found an 1823 sale at Christie's entirely devoted to fragments of old furniture which were presumably sold for re-use in this manner.

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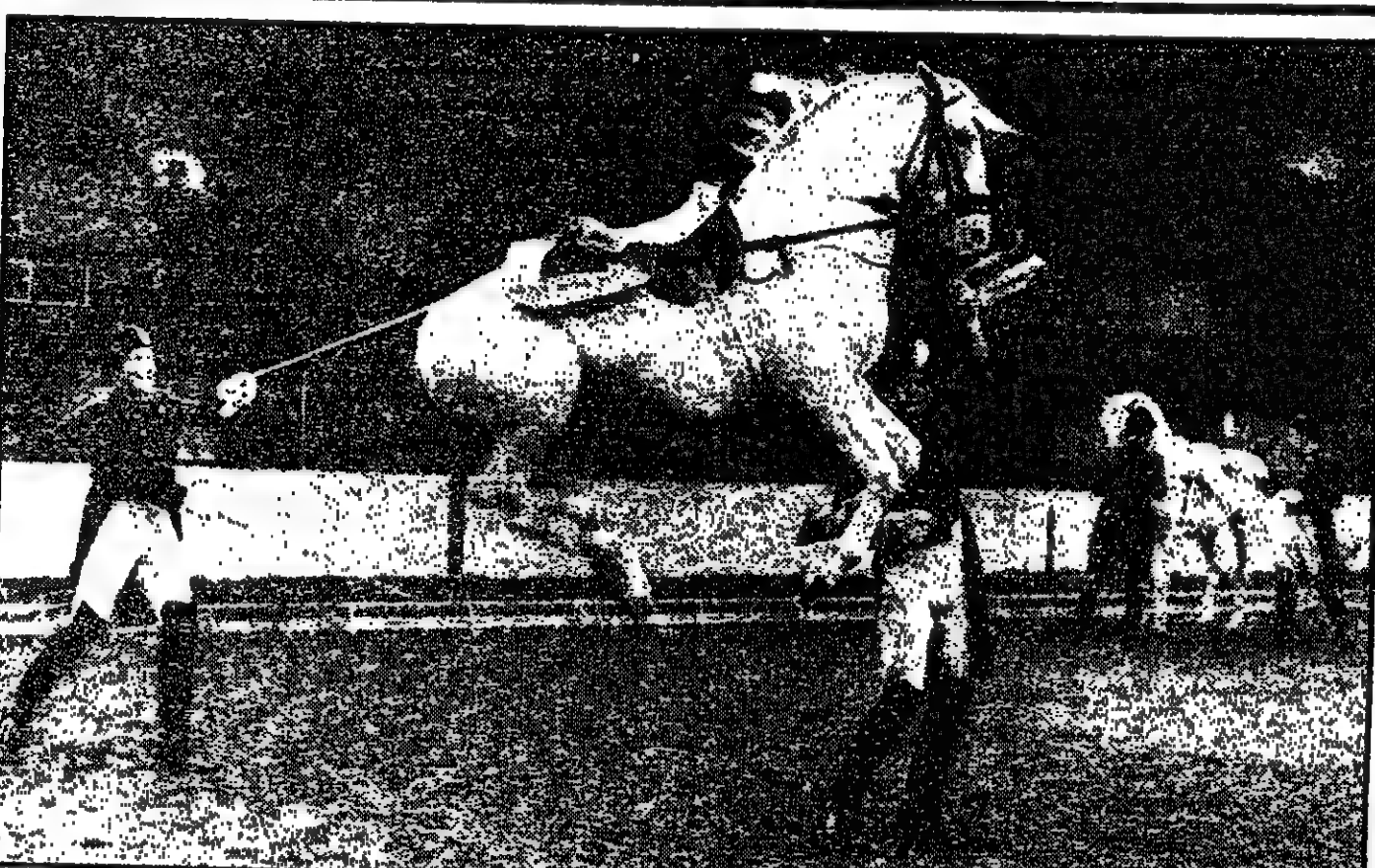
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Philip Howard

Christopher Logue

Generaline Normau

Suteraam Correspondent



## Easy riders with a touch of class

To sit astride a stallion, whether stationary or nobly, without falling on one's head is an act of skill and courage. To do so while the beast is hopping forwards while reared on its hind legs might seem an accident of eccentricity, foolhardiness, or supererogation, or all three at once. It is, nevertheless, done on purpose, and called the *courbette*, English curvet. The master horses and riders in the ancient art of equestrian ballet known as *Haute Ecole* arrive in London tonight. Next week they are performing their mystery at the Empire Pool, Wembley, providing a rare opportunity for us to see the most skilful horsemen since old Chiron and his fellow Centaurs kicked their heels around the mythology of Theseus.

They are the Spanish Riding School of Vienna, the only riding academy in the world that still practises classical horsemanship as frozen immortally in marble on the frieze of the Parthenon, described by Napoleon in his treatises on riding.

and rediscovered at the Renaissance. The epithet Spanish is an oddity applied to an old Austrian institution. It comes about because since its foundation more than four centuries ago only the great white Lipizzaner stallions imported from Spain have been trained in *Haute Ecole* at Vienna. They are born dark brown, turn white between the ages of four and 10; and are credited with supererogative virtues from a desire to learn, to courage and vivacity. The breed is said to have sprung originally from Carthage. It was already famous when Caesar was curvetting through Spain.

Another explanation of the Spanish connexion is that when the art of classical riding was rediscovered in the fifteenth century, on a Habsburg ruled the Austrian Empire and another Habsburg carried on the family business by ruling Spain and Naples. There was family commerce between the two courts in everything from ideas to horses.

The exercises of the high art

of riding were designed to ruin young nobles to use weapons on horseback and to control a horse in battle. They were also intended to show off the verve, power, and obedience of the Lipizzaners. With their happy talent for preserving the ornaments of their imperial past without the politics or the nostalgia of other former empires, the Austrians have preserved the standards of their riding school into an age when sitting on a horse correctly is no longer an indispensable accomplishment for the ambitious.

The high art of riding is divided into three parts. 1. "Straight forward riding" consists of riding a horse without upsetting his natural balance (for your own, for that matter) at uncollected paces along straight lines.

2. "Campaign riding" consists of putting the collected horse through all paces, turns and movements while maintaining perfect balance.

3. "Haute Ecole" itself consists of putting the horse, reared up on his hind legs

with his haunches deeply bent, through all the paces and jumps as well as the unusual and artificial ones.

It is the last of these classes that is the most spectacular, filling the man who can either take horses or leave them alone with the resolution not to sit on them if he can avoid it. It includes such alarming extravaganzas as the *capriole*: the horse leaps high in the air and while airborne kicks violently with its rear legs. This

was once, understandably, a useful battle tactic. The prince of horsemanship who said that there was no secret so close as that between rider and horse had just clung on during an unintended *capriole*.

Dr Kurt Endorl, the Austrian ambassador, says: "A country has many ambassadors besides its official diplomats. In Austria we have musical and four-legged equestrian ambassadors; and they do more in a fortnight to put his country on

the map than the wretched official ambassador can hope to do in a year of arduous diplomacy."

Next week the Spanish Riding School brings its ancient and engaging art to London, to demonstrate that horse sense means more than not betting on humans, and that common sense means hanging on tight while the horses are using it.

Philip Howard

Christopher Logue

Generaline Normau

Suteraam Correspondent

## On First Looking into Coleridge's notebooks

Roly-Poly-Colly, witless my wish that you might have got in with Mister Blake and skinned the Worthy view. Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain!

Never a laugh their daily wont, Dorothy Do and William Don't, might have got in with who? Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain!

Gnat's-piss tea by starlight, loathsome lacrosse stew; might have got in with Bysshe'n'By and kissed a Claire or two. Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain!

Pity the day that, hus forbid, (might have got in with who?), pity for us, pity for us, and pity for Colly too. Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain! Rain!

Christopher Logue

## The long-lived Fellows of Cambridge

Professor J. E. Littlewood, who died on September 6 aged 92, was the last surviving Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, to have been elected in the reign of King Edward VII and possibly the last surviving Fellow of any Cambridge college to have been elected.

He was born in 1885, came up to Trinity as a Scholar in 1903 and was elected a Fellow in 1905. He was not, however, the only Fellow of Trinity whose tenure had lasted for more than 60 years.

Professor H. A. Hailwood, who died in October 1974 aged 90, had just a year later than Littlewood. Hailwood had been President of the Union in 1906. It is an odd coincidence that Littlewood had been the Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics while Hailwood had been the Rouse Ball Professor of English law.

Perhaps it is something in the Fenland air, perhaps it is the even tenor of academic life, that is conducive to longevity among Fellows of Cambridge colleges. The late Lord Adrian, for instance, who died on August 4 aged 87, had been elected a Fellow of Trinity in 1913. He was Master of the college from 1951 to 1963 and Chancellor of the University from 1963 to 1975.

Another Fellow of Trinity who had been elected before the First World War was the Rev F. A. Simpson, who died on February 8, 1974. He had been born in 1833 and elected

a Fellow in 1911. The classical scholar A. E. Housman had been elected at the same time.

Mr Simpson came to Trinity as a history don, but he also served for a time as Dean. In 1968 he rededicated the college chapel the service in which he first preached there as a young don 57 years earlier. On July 2, 1969, he died a letter published in *The Times* which consisted of the single sentence: "This belated notice of persons is mighty offensive."

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## MRS GANDHI AND MR BHUTTO

Both India and Pakistan have been absorbed and confused this year by the trials of their evolving democratic politics. Until recently India's experience in holding fair and orderly elections was much the greater: Pakistan's experience was more fragmentary and more afflicted by internal division. Yet now the parallels seem close. Events before this year's election in each country had made of it a crucial test, India's convincing result was a victory for democratic freedom and also an end to the long, frustrating rule of the Congress Party, not least it seemed a repudiation of Mrs Gandhi's personal leadership.

In Pakistan the size of Mr Bhutto's majority drew immediate cries of foul from the opposition alliance followed by such strongly supported demonstrations of protest in all Pakistan's towns as to deny Mr Bhutto's claim to victory. General Zia's intervention in July, with a promise of fair elections, impartially conducted, was thus welcomed.

In neither country has the present outcome been happy. In both the opposition has proved a disappointment, in power in India, thwarted in Pakistan. The result has been uncertainty and indecision in both countries with no single party or political leader able to find a way through the current confusion. And at this point the deposed leaders Mrs Gandhi and Mr Bhutto both find themselves subject to legal action, which they and their supporters claim to be a vendetta against them on the part of their political opponents.

More than ever such crises the political gulf that divides each country is exposed. On the one hand is the mass of

illiterate peasants, insulated from national concerns, cut off from city life, yet capable by their voting of giving victory to, or of dethroning, any national leader. Mrs Gandhi had her triumph in 1971, then her rejection last March. Mr Bhutto ruled confidently until this year but fearing for his majority in March tried to secure it by rigging many seats. Both leaders then suffered a summer of discontent. Both now find the side of support to have turned once again, with the asset of their supposed martyrdom. Both look to the peasant masses for their support.

On the other side of the gulf are the educated, politically conscious people of the towns. They see political parties born, political hopes raised or dashed; above all they see how political life is conducted and how it distributes its patronage, collects its dues, and manipulates power. By contrast the peasant cares about the annual rainfall, the price he gets for his grain and such charisma as a nationally known figure may seem to dispense. The first-hand experience of political life that affects the town matters little in the village where allegations of corruption or misuse of power are unlikely to dent the reputation of the all-powerful leader. But what can the towns do if such leaders can hold a mass vote, irrespective of the charges made against them and their party? Such is the argument over "accountability" which now exercises India and Pakistan.

Exactions from the business world that go to party funds or disappear into other channels; tough techniques used to

frighten away or extinguish opposition; the power exercised by patronage and pressures exerted in countless ways—these all leave scars on political life. Mr Bhutto's resort to such techniques has sometimes been more blatant; in India Congress has been longer in power and contrives matters more smoothly. All these are issues of concern to the politically involved and they are not to be eradicated simply by a regular process of national elections. The accountability of the politicians matters if corruption is to be reduced, violence for political ends is to be curbed and responsible behaviour in public life is to be encouraged.

In India it is being asked if the action taken against Mrs Gandhi is prudent if the only result is to strengthen her political following and in the process to reflect on the Janata Party that has lost so much ground already since it came to power. In Pakistan Mr Bhutto has been exploiting the allegations made against him and rallying mass support so as to imply that General Zia is conducting a campaign against him. Prudent or imprudent in the case of the leaders, the issue of political behaviour is of moment to political progress in each country. In both at least one hope may be registered. In spite of allegations of a vendetta, or of appointments to the bench that have seemed at times to be politically motivated, or of allegations whispered of judges being suborned, the reputation of the judiciary still stands high and the responsibility of the judicial function preserves its own inherent potency.

## DR OWEN'S OPTIMISM

Dr Owen's remarkably confident report to the Labour Party conference that there will be a cease-fire in Rhodesia in a "few weeks" implies that Mr Ian Smith is in the process of surrendering unconditionally. It suggests that Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe are now reconciled to the Anglo-American plan as set out in the White Paper, and so are going to call off the guerrilla offensive anticipated in November when conditions become favourable. It presumes that Mr Smith's negotiations for an internal solution have collapsed and that he sees no alternative but quietly to hand over to Lord Carver to arrange elections in which the leaders of Zanu and Zapu will peacefully contest the Zimbabwe leadership with Bishop Muzorewa and Mr Sithole.

Staff arrangements are nearly complete. Lord Carver's adjutants have been named, and the United Nations has nominated General Chand as its representative, though he has yet formally to accept before consulting with the British interim administration. A few not unimportant preliminaries remain. Presumably they are in train behind the scenes.

In the first place Mr Smith must soon begin to tell his

electorate what he is arranging, irrespective of electoral statements. There is no indication yet whether he will, or when. His meeting with President Kaunda, arranged through Mr Rowland of Louhro, did not apparently delight the Foreign Office, but perhaps was intended to bring Mr Nkomo, as the moderate leader favoured by President Kaunda, into a working relation with the other black leaders. If Mr Smith could do that, he could tell his people that he had contrived a hand-over to a moderate African regime, promising them all the safeguards printed in the White Paper. It is not only Mr Smith who is yielding to Dr Owen, but the entire white power structure.

Before it does, it will still want to know the interim security arrangements. The White Paper says the army of Zimbabwe is to be "based on" the guerrillas. This may be rhetoric, intended to cover an interim force containing few guerrillas and the bulk of what the Foreign Office is beginning rather ominously to dismiss as "Smith's army". In fact there is no other army. But African ambitions are whetted by rhetoric. The Patriotic Front may expect the rhetoric to be honoured during the next "few weeks" to a degree that Lord Carver and General Chand, as

practical men, may find inconvenient.

As yet they have no military commander. No decision has been taken on the size, composition, or working orders of the planned United Nations force, nor any indication of the use—the inevitable use—to be made of "Smith's army". United Nations troops will not undertake a combat role: their use is a sort of political traffic police. They defend themselves but afford others little or no security. The existing forces, black and white, under new command, alone can do so. Certainly they cannot be ordered to pile arms and walk away—that did not happen in Mozambique, as President Machel knows. If they are used, they must be given a future and careers. To fail to grasp this issue is to risk the very inter-African civil war of which the mass of blacks—even more than white—Rhodesians, are so apprehensive.

There would seem to be a lot to do in the next "few weeks" before the cease-fire. Dr Owen and the Foreign Office will do well to realize their task, if they have got so far so successfully, is to make the last act of Mr Smith and his people as easy as possible. They may, as Dr Owen implies, be desperate and cornered, but they are still in control. It is a delicate moment.

## LABOUR'S EUROSOCIALISM

The 1977 Labour Conference may perhaps be remembered as the occasion when the Labour Party discovered Europe. Not only was a motion calling for Britain's withdrawal from the European Community decisively rejected; more important, perhaps, in the long run was the acknowledgement that Europe is not just a common market that one has to be for or against, but an area of the world to which this country for better or worse belongs, and in whose affairs it behaves as to take an interest. This acknowledgement showed itself in various ways. One was the statement from the National Executive that "our priority... would be to work with the European Left—to create, within Europe, the climate and conditions needed for the development of socialism in each of the member states"—though unapparently neither the NEC nor the conference could yet bring themselves to follow the logic of this priority to the point of accepting a common manifesto with other European socialist parties for direct elections to the European parliament.

Another sign was to be found in the list of invited representatives and observers. M François

Mitterrand's appearance as guest of honour was not strictly an innovation, since the last three annual conferences have been addressed by leaders of "external" European parties. Yet Herr Schmidt's visit in 1974 was essentially in the context of the Common Market debate, while Dr Soares and Señor Gonzalez were essentially being congratulated on, and encouraged in, their role in helping their respective countries through the difficult passage from dictatorship to democracy. Mitterrand, by contrast, was invited as a socialist leader (and, incidentally, a strongly pro-European one) from a major European country with a good chance of finding himself in power next year and thus becoming a potential partner in the effort to create "the climate and conditions needed for the development of socialism". It is hardly the Labour Party's fault if his chances now look rather less good than they did at the time when the invitation was issued.

But no less significant was the invitation to the leaders of the French, Italian and Spanish Communist Parties to attend as observers, and the evident interest which the presence of senior members of those parties

(in the Spanish case, Señor Carrillo in person) generated in the corridors of the conference. The phenomenon of "Eurocommunism" has aroused the most varied reactions in the Labour Party as elsewhere, but clearly has at least the merit of arousing serious interest in the internal politics of the Latin European countries.

Not everyone was happy about these invitations, but there was nothing really scandalous about them, for they were cleared in each case with the Socialist Parties of the country concerned, all of which maintain polite relations with their local communists and invite them as observers to their own congresses. Much harder to justify is the presence of observers from the Communist Parties of Bulgaria, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania. Their presence was unnecessary, since the regimes they control were in any case represented by diplomatic observers. It was also politically inappropriate, since those parties in their own countries practise a kind of "democracy" very different from the one the Labour Party believes in. It would surely have been right to consult democratic socialists from those countries too before issuing the invitations.

## Child destruction

From Dr C. B. Goodhart  
Sir, Correcting a statement attributed to you (September 26) to the Department of Health and Social Security, your Principal Assistant Solicitor (September 29) rightly observes that the Infant Life (Preservation) Act 1929 "in no way affects the duty to take the measures required to preserve the life of a child who has been born and is capable of sustaining life, whatever the circumstances of delivery or the length of gestation".  
But there is a further point bearing clarification. The 1929

Act makes it the criminal offence of "child destruction" to destroy the life of a viable child before it has an independent existence, unless this is done "in good faith for the purpose only of preserving the life of the mother". Mr Knopel agrees that this is so regardless of gestation length. However, the circumstances "in good faith" are that it was the victim of an intentional procured abortion; then it would seem that the duty to take the measures necessary to preserve the life of the child afterwards would not provide a sufficient defence against any charge

of child destruction or manslaughter.

After all, if you run over someone in your car, you certainly have a duty then to take any measures necessary to preserve the life of your victim, though to have done everything possible in that respect by no means relieves you of criminal or civil responsibility for death or injury resulting from your reckless driving in the first place.  
Yours etc.  
C. B. GOODHART,  
Gonville and Caius College,  
Cambridge.  
September 29.

## Building ships for Poland

From Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin  
Sir, We in British Shipbuilders regard British shipbuilders as our essential partners who, together with the Royal Navy, support a maritime trading interest on which, to a higher degree than any other country, Britain's prosperity depends. I would, therefore, like to ally the concern expressed by Mr David H. Gault in his letter which you published on October 6 by stating the following facts:  
(a) The ships concerned are to be specially designed for the Polish Baltic trade.  
(b) Polska Zegluga Morska, the Polish company involved, intends to use them for cargoes which have been and will continue to be, confined exclusively to Polish flag ships.  
(c) The new ships will largely be replacement tonnage.  
(d) The existing jobs of British seamen will not be affected.  
(e) Far from foreign shipbuilders being "reticent on principle about this business we will have won it against their very strong competition."  
(f) British Shipbuilders are fully empowered and capable of entering into a similar commercial arrangement with any British shipowner.  
We in British Shipbuilders fully acknowledge the right of British shipbuilders to build wherever they can get the best offers—indeed most of Mr Gault's ships were built abroad and six ships for a British owner are now being built in Poland. It is our aim to improve the competitiveness of our offers so as naturally to attract more business from our British shipowner friends.  
Yours faithfully,  
A. T. F. GRIFFIN, Chairman,  
British Shipbuilders,  
12-18 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1,  
October 7.

## Radical thought

From Professor John Westergaard  
Sir, Mike Pitt (October 6) hits the nail squarely on the head. Professor Halmos and others (October 5) disclaim any intention on Professor Gould's and their part to advocate "liberalism" and the stated purpose of the Gould report is to encourage intellectual rebuttal of "the Radical position". But it is hard to see how this legitimate intention can be advanced by Appendix III of the report. That Appendix comprises, the main body of the report, a list of people who have consented to speak at academic meetings sponsored by the Communist Party and groups linked to it.  
What purpose is this to serve? If it implies the list named are all guilty of the intellectual inappropriateness, errors and confusions which the report ascribes to "the Radical position", listing names in no way proves the point. If it implies that those named all support the Communist Party, the implication is false and, above all, again irrelevant. If the intention is to persuade academic authorities responsible for appointments and promotions to proceed with special caution when considering candidates named in the list, that would certainly be to encourage "liberal means".  
Whatever Professor Gould's motives, the effect must be to suggest guilt by association.  
Yours truly,  
JOHN WESTERGAARD,  
Department of Sociological Studies,  
October 6.

From Professor John Griffiths  
Sir, Perhaps a concrete example will explain why some of us consider the techniques adopted by the Gould report to be comparable to those of Senator McCarthy. First come the general allegations; then the general evidence; then the

Radical memoranda, says the report, are "dedicated political men and women whose whole [the report's emphasis] lives centre upon political ends... they are adept at building up using and diverting for their own ends, a variety of Front organizations [e.g. 'Academic Freedom']... which they adopt to cover and protect their own activities. As an example... the report cites the Committee for Academic Freedom and Democracy (CAFD). These allegations are unsupported, unsubstantiated and false. That is McCarthyism.

CAFD is a body of several hundred members open to anyone who wishes to join with an elective executive committee of 22. Over the years we have taken up hundreds of cases of men and women in academic life who have been unfairly treated. In the great majority of cases I, as honorary secretary, do not know and in no cases I inquire what political views these persons hold.  
The only evidence put forward by the Gould report that CAFD is a Front organization is a statement which some of us made that the wider conceptions of academic freedom and the structure of contemporary society are in conflict. The smear follows. For instead of evidence the report, in a footnote, quotes a letter in the educational press saying that our purpose is "the advancement... by whatever means... of Marxist-Leninist authoritarianism". That statement I know to be ridiculous nonsense. But how can it be rebutted? That is McCarthyism.  
Yours truly,  
J. A. G. GRIFFITHS,  
Honorary Secretary,  
Committee for Academic Freedom and Democracy,  
186 Kings Cross Road, WC1.

## Forestry rents

From Mrs C. A. Compton  
Sir, Where in the world can land still be rented for 121 pence per acre per year. The answer is here in England.  
Many patriotic Englishmen gave up visible land to the Forestry Commission on long leases in the 1920s and receive virtually nil for their generosity. Is there not now a moral case for a review of this situation?  
Yours faithfully,  
CAROLINE COMPTON,  
12 South Hill Park, NW3.

## Productivity: the Portbury example

From Mr Leonard Griffiths

Sir, The facts about the Portbury steel plant and a reference to the prevailing British conditions, and in so doing laid the basis for a lot of the industry's present ill. Mr Rees-Mogg is least helpful when writing of the Japanese steel industry. He repeats glib assertions about Japanese manning levels without reminding his readers that the Japanese industry employs exclusively contractors for maintenance work so that their manning levels do not include figures for a permanent craft labour force. More seriously, he ignores the fact that Japanese steel production workers are, as a matter of company policy, often of high school educational standard (rather below our own GCE A level) with the result that a continuous casting plant in Japan may typically have a shift manning of nine operators whereas the comparable plant in Britain has a shift manning of seven operators.  
The difference lies in the fact that the Japanese plant does not have the layers of supervisory and managerial grades above the production workers who may perform such duties and certain maintenance tasks themselves. But such a detailed investigation forms no part of Mr Rees-Mogg's argument.  
When speaking of the British steel industry Mr Rees-Mogg fails to say that all new plant commissioned by the BSC is invariably manned, with full trade union cooperation, to the best European and Japanese specifications. Often, however, such plant needs additional labour after a year or so's operation because it has been found to be impossible to run efficiently on the theoretical levels imposed by an array of managers on the union negotiators. Anyone who knows the steel industry will know that fresh manpower has had to be injected into the finishing end of the record breaking Tinsbury Bar Mill, Rotherham, whose productivity Eric Varley complimented, to enable that mill to be able to ship out its record breaking tonnages effectively. It is a cold fact that most new steel plants in the past five years have had to be manned rather than demanned.

But Mr Rees-Mogg is not interested in these matters, for he is presenting a polemic as reasoned argument. He prefers to repeat unexamined statistics, to work only on his productivity to sell" and then to equate productivity with redundancy, as if this sterile prescription were what was needed by our troubled economy. Increased productivity will result only when the steel industry is managed efficiently at all levels with full participation in decision taking by the workforce. Furthermore, such a participation in decision taking will only be truly meaningful in the framework of a nationally planned economy with governments wholly committed to making the public corporations such as steel work efficiently and well.

British governments are fortunate in having the oldest and most sophisticated organisation of nationally planned economy in the world; they should display an equal measure of sophistication and ignore the stale formulae that Mr Rees-Mogg offers and put incentive and not redundancy into our industrial life.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH LLOYD JONES,  
Divisional Organizer,  
Iron and Steel Trades Confederation,  
Rotherham,  
41 St Margaret Avenue,  
Sheffield,  
October 5.

From Dr K. L. Jones  
Sir, The second of Mr Rees-Mogg's articles on "socialist productivity in Britain" (October 5) reinforces the diagnosis for our economic ills presented in his first article (September 26) by specifically condemning the trade unions as the cause of low productivity in this country. Mr Rees-Mogg's contributions are damaging and dangerous because the present in the columns of a respected and influential newspaper a preconceived notion of the cause of our country's problems and by specious argument and dubious statistics justify that preconceived notion. The tactic is obviously to give a false form and authority to the wide political opinions of such as Mr Keith Joseph who are currently seeking simplistically to blame Britain's ills on the deep-rooted structural problems of post-imperial Britain, the oldest industrial economy in the world.

In dealing with the steel industry, for example, Mr Rees-Mogg ignores altogether the deficit state in which the industry was left at the time of nationalisation by the unrepentant private employers with no attempt being made to invest in new plant after the unprofitably profitable period of the 1950s. He further ignores the fact that when, with the public ownership of the industry, that investment did come, it came in the form of the British Steel Corporation's ill conceived "Year Development Scheme" of 1972 which committed the industry's future solely to the

## Saving a Bellini

From Sir Philip Hendy

Sir, I have been hoping for a leader on the subject of Lord Cottesloe's very important and cogent letter which you published on September 17. It is imperative that, at least in the case of the figurative arts, something be done soon, if we are not to be regarded by future generations as the generation who sold the last remnant of our birthright for a mess of pottage.

In your issue of September 2, your Arts Reporter made it known that it is Mr Denis Mahon that we have to thank for his generosity and discrimination in offering to give £50,000 towards the purchase of Bellini's notable altarpiece, *The Madonna and Child with two Saints and the Donor*. His discrimination lay in the proviso that the Government should give a matching grant. It is estimated that the picture would fetch about £1,000,000 at auction. But it is being offered to Birmingham for £400,000.

Your reporter also made it known that the Minister with responsibility for the arts declined to take responsibility in this case, because the Victoria and Albert Museum gave £50,000 from its circulating fund. It is the Birmingham Art Gallery that wishes to acquire the picture. It is the Victoria and Albert Museum which received the £50,000. Even governments cannot pretend to give the same £50,000 twice.

## Illustrations to Tolkien

From Mr John Letts

Sir, May we, please, get the record straight on the drawings you reproduced today (October 6) from The Folio Society's edition of *The Lord of the Rings*?  
As any reader will see, the title page carries the wording "Illustrations by Ingahild Grahnmer: drawn by Eric Fraser".  
The facts are that the late Professor Tolkien had rejected the work of many professional illustrators who had wanted to tackle this task. Some six years ago, Queen Margaret drew a set of illustrations, out of private enthusiasm, and, with no thought of publication, sent them to Tolkien. Somewhat unexpectedly, in view of his dislike of the many illustration samples he had previously rejected, he approved these designs warmly.

After his death, they were found among his files; and his literary heirs suggested that they, too, would approve their use in the new

## Settling the air dispute

From Captain R. W. Pullan

Sir, At this moment I am over the southern tip of Greenland, flying between Chicago and London in a Boeing 747, en route to latitude 62 north and longitude 10 west thence via Stornoway to London. A glance at a globe will illustrate the unnecessary distance being flown.

Some 36 hours ago I was flying from London to Chicago at a latitude of 51 north in the teeth of the prevailing westerly jet stream. Those familiar with North Atlantic operations, and the normal weather patterns, will appreciate that this is not how the Atlantic should be flown.

This situation is a result of the Air Traffic Control assistants' dispute in the United Kingdom. Operational considerations, of track and height selection no longer prevail. Fixed tracks are in operation and I am instructed what track and height to fly and at what time I must enter the system. This in turn determines the delayed departure time.

The consequences of this policy are serious. Outbound to Chicago, 100 knot headwinds cost an extra 25 minutes flying time and the burning of some 1,750 gallons of extra fuel. The eastbound leg this morning, also being flown at an uneconomic height, is taking some 40 minutes longer than necessary and consuming over 2,000 gallons of extra fuel. This is happening night and day to virtually every aircraft operating across the North Atlantic. The cost of this exercise, in fuel, time, and wear, is enormous.

The economic question whether to pay 850 ATC assistants what is apparently their negotiated due, or to impose these financial penalties upon the airlines, and ultimately the fare paying public, is the arithmetic of madness. Not the least affected is British Airways. A classic case of robbing both Peter and Paul.

The Government can flex their political brawn in this case. If it were British Leyland, they would be doing a better job of controlling money, yet another meaningless admonition.

Is it not time that some simple common sense was displayed at high level?

Yours sincerely,  
R. W. PULLAN,  
14 Broad Lane,  
Hampton,  
Middlesex,  
07.25 GMT,  
October 1.

## Future of Ulster

From the Roman Catholic Bishop in West London

Sir, The views and policy of the new Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, the official leader of the Roman Catholic community in Ireland North and South of the border, are of some consequence for the future of Northern Ireland. I attended Mr O'Fee's installation as Archbishop last Sunday and heard the firm and moving words that conclude his address. They deserve, I think, to be put on record.

"The representatives of the whole Irish people, North and South, Protestant and Catholic, are linked together in fraternal affection around the altar today, if we could only preserve it tomorrow, and the next day, and the day after."

"I have taken as my episcopal motto a few simple words from the psalmist: *Fraternus in unum*. 'How good, how delightful it is to live together like brothers.' Brothers—love, peace, harmony, reconciliation, mutual forgiveness, an end to past dissensions and a new beginning in the fuller practice of justice and charity towards all, these will be the objectives of all my work in Armagh, whether it last for a year or a day, tomorrow and the next day, and the day after."

"I want to get to know my Protestant fellow Ulstermen as well. They will find me, I think, a man not too different from themselves, simple in tastes, blunt in speech, hearty in laughter—men who fully appreciate the great contribution they have made to this province, who share with them one love of his native Ulster, who has been saddened by the terrible tragedies which many of their families have suffered in recent years, who understands their fears and reaches out his hand for their friendship."

Yours faithfully,  
T. G. MAHON, mhm,  
Bishop in West London,  
7 Dukes Avenue,  
Chiswick, W4,  
October 7.

## Year of the mouse

From Mr Tom Hey

Sir, This must be the Year of the Mouse too, at least in our corner of England. Never before in 40 years of home food growing have I had my bean crop chewed to bits by mice, cabbages disheartened, peas punctured (mice, not the usual jays), apples gouged, tomatoes lacerated... but why go on with the dismal tale.

I recently admired in Salt Lake City the beautiful statue of a gull which the Mormons erected in tribute to the birds that saved their crops from a pest in the crucial pioneer days. Well, a kestrel has certainly turned up in the garden here for the first time—a sure indication of lavish mice meals. There'll be no statue: it came too late to save our crops.

Yours etc.  
TOM HEY,  
Grays Cottage,  
Haslemere,  
Surrey.

## Recognizing the Vatican

From Mr R. J. Midwinter

Sir, Has the Vatican recognized itself since the Second Vatican Council?  
Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MIDWINTER,  
14 Frohisher Gardens,  
Boxgrove Park,  
Guildford,  
Surrey.



## Theological strategy for an age of trivializing ineptitude

## Astronomy

Natural History Museum, lecturers: Dinosaurs, 11; Mushrooms and roadstools, 3.  
Walks: "A London village, Hampstead", meet Hampstead station, 2; A journey through Tudor and Stuart London, meet Embankment station, 2.

The Queen's Pictures, the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace Road, best paintings from the royal collection, 2-5.  
Walks : Dickens's London, meet Tower Hill station, 11; Regent's Canal, meet Camden Town station, 2.  
Tate Gallery lecture: Expressionism in England, gallery 27, 3.

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7	DP	6140.66	KF	87.230		
8	DP	861.734	KV	21.628		
9	DP	733.677	2	KL	77.117	
10	4	DS	7.77.77	3	KL	77.117
11	4	DW	379.125	4	KN	3278.53
12	4	DW	762.77	5	KS	885888
13	5	DS	0778.55	6	KT	234.45
14	6	DP	237.666	7	KV	762.767
15	6	DP	777.777	8	KB	10.10.10
16	6	DP	177.773	9	KB	33.33.38
17	8	EE	55.043	5	KP	1.1.131

[illegible]

The DeWager Viscountess Stuart of Findhorn, OBE, who died on October 2, at the age of 75, was the widow of the first Viscount Stuart of Findhorn, who as Mr. James Stuart of PC, CH, was a former Secretary of State for Scotland. She was Lady Rachel Cavendish, fourth daughter of the ninth

[illegible]

past three days the American station Rias has been violently jammed. The Voice of America has long been interrupted but the jamming of Rias is new.

**TEMPLE CHURCH.** First Street  
- - - - - HC 8.30: MP  
11.15. ID Marchen in G. Jub  
- - - - - Psalm: A. I go on my way

**CAROL FRANCH-BOWTIE**, Mass., Phil.  
volunteers has (Anderson), Mm. Sec-  
[near] Schmin.

**ST COLUMBA'S Church at Scot-**  
**land's Point** Boston, Mass. and 6.30. Rev  
Dr. R. H. [?]

**WESTMINSTER CHAPEL**, Buchin  
has date: 11 and 6.30. Rev Dr A.  
Kendall.

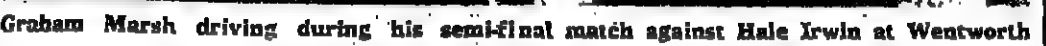
**WESLEY'S CHAPEL:** Meeting at  
Stardis's, Dumfries Hill, 11, Rev  
A. B. [?]

[illegible]



## Golf

**PELL**



By Peter Ryde

### Weekend fixtures

**By Peter West**

J. Hanson, M. Ording, G. Bracken,  
C. Sweeney, B. Andrews, W. Fra-  
mann, C. Culpepper.

By Norman Fox  
Football Co.

clinical outcomes



184 18

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1991

Washington, Oct. 7.—China drew 1-1 with the United States in a

\_\_\_\_\_

West Berlin, Oct. 7.—Italy meet West Germany in a friendly inter-

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Zurich, Switzerland, Oct. 7.—  
Bohemians of Ireland, were today

\_\_\_\_\_

## Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire have run into

---

New York, Oct. 7.—The New York Yankees today were leading a 1-0 Kansas City lead and

---

By Sydney Friskin in seeking the strongest opposi-  
tion tomorrow. Lincolnshire, see

Suffolk will be without Long, who has moved to Dulwich and in any case will be playing for the

## Click-off 3.0 unless stated

...and the fact that the system is not yet fully operational, the Commission has decided to postpone the final decision on the system until the end of 1992.

Bradford City v Preston N.E. .... Clydebank v Motherwell .....  
 — v. Belperborough (2 15) Dundee Utd v Rangers

<sup>a</sup> The number of subjects who were included in each group was 10.

**Ablon Rovers v Dunfermline ....**  
**Brochie v Bernick .....**

**County Championship**  
(Gloucestershire v Devon (at Gloucester)  
Somerset v Cornwall (at Bath))

**LONDON LEAGUE:** Beckenham v Slough, Bidehuth v Chesham, Bromley v Luton, H. Dulwich v Hounslow, Guildford v Old Kingstonians, Hounslow v

who last season helped to take them to the semi-final round of the county championship where

220 clubs in various regions. The top-two teams from each regional league will qualify for the play-



## SPORT

## Horse of the Year Show

## Brown is champion of the year on father's horse

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris

Stephen Hadley gained his first success of the week at the Horse of the Year Show yesterday when he took the Jean Machine Stakes on Gimpel, beating Hugo Simon on Austria on his 1972 Olympic horse, Lancelotti, by nearly two seconds. The Eborham Aged Saddle Trophy for the Grade C champion of the year went to young John Brown of Scotland, a dual winner of the Young Riders Championship of Great Britain at Hickstead.

Riding his father's horse, Star Gay Time, he did well to win the barrage by 1.7 seconds from Elizabeth Edson on Everest for Ever. Malloway Spens finished third on Pad Pad, the winner of the Daily Express Foxhunter Championship on Tuesday night. The hawks were judged in the morning by Mrs George Gibson for their conformation and by John Shelden for their ride. Miss Profumo and Mrs. Shelden, the champion here in 1975 and 1976, were sadly absent from this place in the small but important event.

The class for large hawks, which the field of four hawks, including the champion on Oakley Blowing Bubbles, by the pony stationer Bitch Zephier. The class for large hawks, which the field of four hawks, including the champion on Oakley Blowing Bubbles, by the pony stationer Bitch Zephier.

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Hadley: Won the Jean Machine Stakes on Gimpel.

was in no mood to jest, for Graf was jumping out of his skin and he wanted to go on to attack the record height, which is 7ft 3in at Wembley. With the wall going up in multiples of four inches, a further row of bricks would have been well within Graf's compass. Having argued the point with the judges and lost, he said bitterly: "Cowards! I wanted to go for the record."

THE HUNTER CHAMPIONSHIP, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK, 1977. Mrs. Hadley's Graf, a 1972 Olympic horse, Lancelotti, by nearly two seconds. The Eborham Aged Saddle Trophy for the Grade C champion of the year went to young John Brown of Scotland, a dual winner of the Young Riders Championship of Great Britain at Hickstead.

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## Racing

## Lucent will find going to her liking

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent

Ascot stages its last meeting of the current flat racing season today and it promises to be a good day's racing. With £10,000 added the Princess Royal Stakes is the most valuable race run with Royal Hivis. Lucent, after the flag and Tanaka in the field it should not be an anticlimax. Many will fancy Royal Hivis, seeing her win the Park Hill Stakes at Doncaster and finish second in both the Yorkshire Oaks and the Prix Vermeille but on ground that is bound to be soft I cannot help wondering whether even the will manage to give four pounds to Lucent who is known to be a mudlark.

Two things undermine confidence in Royal Hivis this afternoon. The first is the knowledge that whether a filly with such a good action and who has excelled on fast ground will be as effective when having to race on soft ground. The second is the fact that the filly who finished on either side of her in the Vermeille to make any impact in the Prix d'Arc de Triomphe.

Some would go even further and point out that Royal Hivis should not even beat Tanaka judged on the way that they ran in the Park Hill Stakes. Last week they carried the same weight and Royal Hivis won by a length and a half. This time Royal must give Tanaka nine pounds.

I still regard Lucent the main stumbling block. Whereas Royal Hivis's form in the Vermeille has taken a knock recently Lucent's last performance looks good in the light of events. She has run up to Balmerino at Goodwood and Balmerino went on to beat all but Alleged in the Arc.

All that seems to suggest that Lucent ought to give her backers a good run in the conditions that will prevail this afternoon and she is my selection. Later in the day her trainer Ryan Price and jockey Brian Taylor should have a good chance of winning the Princess Handicap as well with Le Soleil.

Bovis Limited have sponsored the sprint that carries their name and what a difficult handicap this is to unravel. Scarcely Blessed, second in the Park Hill Stakes, and Ravelston are some of those expected to run well. Epsom Imp would appear to have the beating of Geoffrey Blasted on the way that they ran in the Vermeille here while Scarcely Blessed should also make her presence felt when again remembers how well she ran against Gentildonna in the Maiden Stakes.

Yet even she may be unable to give a stone to Last Sale who has already won one good race over today's course and distance. Last Sale was beaten three lengths by Whymby at Doncaster when he was last seen but he was not disgraced that day as he

gave the smart northern sprinter 15 pounds.

Ten years ago today the Sandwich Stakes was won by that great racehorse and influential saviour Vaguely Noble and today could be the turn of his son Valour to follow in his footsteps. There was a lot to like about the way Valour ran in the Royal Lodge Stakes, his first race. Bearing in mind the quality of his opposition he did every bit as well as Dactylographer had done 24 hours earlier when he was beaten five lengths by Home Run.

Peter Watway won the Duke of Edinburgh Stakes for the fourth time at Ascot yesterday when Camden Town's younger brother ought to be the centre of attraction. Whatever Camden Town achieves in the future I will still expect Brennan Glen to do well, too. On his first appearance in public he ran well to finish second yesterday.

Earlier in the day Barry Hills won the Wyndham Handicap Stakes with Mainline, who obviously loved the softer ground as he had done when she won the Ascot Stakes. Her stable boy travelling companion, Dural, was a flop in the Marlborough House Stakes. Beforehand Hills was certain that Dural was ready to give of her best.

The inevitable position of being able to offer a half brother to this colt and High Top, by the Derby winner Blakeney, at the Houghton Hotel at Newmarket next Thursday. Blakeney has had a tremendous year and with this latest success Camden Town's younger brother ought to be the centre of attraction. Whatever Camden Town achieves in the future I will still expect Brennan Glen to do well, too. On his first appearance in public he ran well to finish second yesterday.

Correction  
An agency photograph on page 11 on Monday, October 3, showed the racehorse "Alleged" being led by a lady whom we described as "Mrs Sangster, the wife of the owner".  
Mrs Robert Sangster has asked us to point out that the lady in the photograph was not her.

We express our regret for any embarrassment which may have been caused to Mrs Sangster by this error.

## Tree Breeze could claim big York prize

By Michael Seely

Tree Breeze is my selection to capture the Sam Hall Memorial Trophy, at York, this afternoon. Our Newmarket correspondent says that Henry Cecil's smart stayer, Echo Summit, has been showing glimpses of his old form. But although Tree Breeze, successful in her last two races on the flat at Ripon and Epsom, has been in good form since a hurdle race at Perth last week, would prefer a longer distance than this afternoon's one mile six furlongs. I take this as a sign of her form and intention to run with a vengeance. There are sound bets at this time of the year, but only on horses who suddenly found their form and are running up a sequence of victories. The only entry of that type

today, Mister Geoffrey is a somewhat wayward seven-year-old, who is distinctly useful on his day. Our Newmarket correspondent says that Henry Cecil's smart stayer, Echo Summit, has been showing glimpses of his old form. But although Tree Breeze, successful in her last two races on the flat at Ripon and Epsom, has been in good form since a hurdle race at Perth last week, would prefer a longer distance than this afternoon's one mile six furlongs. I take this as a sign of her form and intention to run with a vengeance. There are sound bets at this time of the year, but only on horses who suddenly found their form and are running up a sequence of victories. The only entry of that type

entered on today's card, Absalom, was withdrawn overnight in favour of an assault on the more valuable stakes at Ascot. In his absence, the Marston Moor Stakes may fall to Tom Jones's consistent Fast Soldier.

The main event of the afternoon, the £5,000 Port Development Stakes, a seven-furlong handicap, may fall to Eric Collingwood's Ravelston, at Ascot, who is expected to succeed to her credit since winning the Beeswing Handicap at Newmarket in July last year. Her odds are short, but signs of returning to her best when giving Berkeley Square a hard nose at Ascot recently, and a good record for Private Line and Captain's Wings.

STATE OF GOING (officials): Ascot: Good to soft. York: Good. Ayr: Good. Newcastle: Good. Doncaster: Good. Liverpool: Good. Manchester: Good. Nottingham: Good. Leicester: Good. Birmingham: Good. Cardiff: Good. Swansea: Good. Exeter: Good. Plymouth: Good. Bristol: Good. Gloucester: Good. Worcester: Good. Hereford: Good. Shrewsbury: Good. Chester: Good. Flint: Good. Bangor: Good. Llandudno: Good. Colwyn: Good. Penrhy: Good. Barmouth: Good. Aberystwyth: Good. Carmarthen: Good. Milford: Good. Newport: Good. Cardiff: Good. Swansea: Good. Exeter: Good. Plymouth: Good. Bristol: Good. Gloucester: Good. Worcester: Good. Hereford: Good. Shrewsbury: Good. Chester: Good. Flint: Good. Bangor: Good. Llandudno: Good. Colwyn: Good. Penrhy: Good. Barmouth: Good. Aberystwyth: Good. Carmarthen: Good. Milford: Good. Newport: Good. Cardiff: Good. Swansea: Good. Exeter: Good. Plymouth: Good. Bristol: Good. Gloucester: Good. Worcester: Good. Hereford: Good. Shrewsbury: Good. Chester: Good. Flint: Good. Bangor: Good. Llandudno: Good. Colwyn: Good. Penrhy: Good. Barmouth: Good. Aberystwyth: Good. Carmarthen: Good. Milford: Good. Newport: Good. Cardiff: Good. Swansea: Good. Exeter: Good. Plymouth: Good. Bristol: Good. Gloucester: Good. Worcester: Good. Hereford: Good. Shrewsbury: Good. Chester: Good. Flint: Good. Bangor: Good. Llandudno: Good. Colwyn: Good. Penrhy: Good. Barmouth: Good. Aberystwyth: Good. Carmarthen: Good. Milford: Good. Newport: Good. Cardiff: Good. Swansea: Good. Exeter: Good. Plymouth: Good. Bristol: Good. Gloucester: Good. Worcester: Good. Hereford: Good. Shrewsbury: Good. Chester: Good. Flint: Good. Bangor: Good. Llandudno: Good. Colwyn: Good. Penrhy: Good. Barmouth: Good. Aberystwyth: Good. Carmarthen: Good. Milford: Good. Newport: Good. Cardiff: Good. Swansea: Good. Exeter: Good. Plymouth: Good. Bristol: Good. Gloucester: Good. Worcester: Good. Hereford: Good. Shrewsbury: Good. Chester: Good. Flint: Good. Bangor: Good. Llandudno: Good. Colwyn: Good. Penrhy: Good. Barmouth: Good. Aberystwyth: Good. Carmarthen: Good. Milford: Good. Newport: Good. Cardiff: Good. Swansea: Good. Exeter: Good. Plymouth: Good. Bristol: Good. Gloucester: Good. Worcester: Good. Hereford: Good. Shrewsbury: Good. Chester: Good. Flint



# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

### Cuts in savings and spending emphasize strain on pay policy

By David Blake  
Living standards fell by about 2 per cent in the second quarter of this year, according to official figures released yesterday by the Central Statistical Office.

Personal disposable income reached its lowest level for four years, emphasizing the strains placed on the Government's attempt to negotiate a new phase of incomes policy. The strain was borne almost equally by consumer spending and savings. Consumer spending fell by about 1 per cent from the previous quarter, while the proportion of disposable income which was saved fell to 13.5 per cent from 14.4.

The savings ratio does more than indicate the extent to which people have to cut back on their savings to keep up living standards. It has come to be regarded as giving a crude rule-of-thumb guide to the extent to which people feel the need to put money aside to deal with future rising prices and the threat of unemployment.

Interpreting the figures is made more difficult by the fact that the CSO has had to drastically revise its estimates of what was happening last year and at the beginning of 1977.

The picture to emerge suggests that income in current terms, rising prices, was much higher at the beginning of this year than the CSO figures in July suggested. At that time it seemed as if real incomes had fallen by 2 per cent in the third quarter, and more concessions are expected in November.

It now emerges that there was hardly any change at all.

The dollar fell again yesterday in most world markets, but picked up towards the end of the day as news of the increase in American prime rates came through.

Against sterling it actually ended the day stronger than it had been on Thursday, after experiencing a week's start. The closing rate was \$1.7588 to the pound, compared with \$1.7597 at the end of business on Thursday.

The dollar began weakly yesterday in what seems to have been brisk though not hectic trading. At the opening of business the pound went up to around \$1.7510, with Bank of England support needed to

stop it rising even further. Later in the day demand for sterling eased, however, with the pound's effective rate falling to 62.3 per cent of the level in 1971, a drop of 0.1 percentage points.

The strongest currency of the day was the Swiss franc, which has been leading the European market against the dollar all through the week. It is now almost on a par with the Deutsche mark, and most dealers expect it to overtake the German currency very soon.

The yen also advanced from its Thursday level, but at the close it was below the day's best.

By David Blake

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### Unexpected drop in US jobless to 6.9 pc

From Frank Vogt  
Washington, Oct 7  
Unemployment in the United States fell to 6.9 per cent last month from 7.1 per cent in August.

Mr Julius Shiskin, Commissioner for Labour Statistics, commented that "the economy is demonstrating an absolutely fantastic capacity for creating jobs when manufacturing is sluggish".

On Wall Street the improved employment figures overshadowed announcements by dozens of banks that they are raising their prime commercial lending rates to 7 1/2 per cent from 7 1/4. The increases were expected after the recent general upward trend of other short-term interest rates, but the improvement in the employment situation came as a surprise to many economists and bankers.

Mr Shiskin told the Joint Economic Committee of Congress today that the decline indicated the continuation of the economic recovery. In the last month the number of unemployed fell by 100,000 to 6.8 million, while employment rose by 320,000 to 91.1 million.

The latest figures tend to lend support to the views of the Carter Administration and the Federal Reserve Board that economic recovery is continuing and concern about a recession ahead is unjustified. It is most unlikely, for example, that the Fed will consider raising rates of money policy at this time because of fears of too sharp a slowdown in the nation's economic growth rate.

The prime rate rises are a reaction to recent Fed actions, and for the next week or two it seems likely that there will be some stability in money market rates.

The Fed itself indicated this intention today when it moved to stabilize the rate for federal funds at 6 1/2 per cent.

By David Blake

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### Severe censure over shares deal

By Ray Maughan  
The Panel on Take-Overs and Mergers has severely censured Mr Peter Brown, director of Portfolio Management. It reached the conclusion "that Mr Brown was aware that an offer from Rascal Electronics was in contemplation when he made his purchase of 10,000 Ultra Electronic shares on February 17 this year".

A statement from the Panel published yesterday revealed that Mr Gerald Kelly, a director of the stockbroking firm of Rowe Rudd, had agreed with Rascal to offer about 85p per share to substantial Ultra shareholders "with an understanding to pay later any higher amount offered in a subsequent successful Rascal bid for Ultra".

This offer, the Panel ruled, was in breach of rule 26 of the City code which prohibits purchases of an offeror company by selected shareholders during an offer, or where one is reasonably in contemplation, with favourable conditions that are not extended to all shareholders. Further, the rule prohibits any "topping up" clause in the sale of shares either before or during an offer period.

The executive of the Panel ruled that Rowe Rudd, having

breached the Code, should arrange for the bargains to be altered to a fixed price and this was done. But the Panel went on to observe that "what could not be undone was the mention on February 17 of a possible bid and it was this that led to the allegations of insider dealing that we have had under consideration".

The broker approached a number of large Ultra shareholders in the course of that morning and one of these was Mr Peter Brown of Portfolio Management which had built up an 8 per cent stake in Ultra for clients.

On the same morning, the Panel discovered, "Mr Brown bought 10,000 shares for his own account at 77p; and it was this purchase that was the subject of our investigation". Mr Brown told the Panel that he received three telephone calls from Mr Kelly on that morning. After the first, when he said that Mr Kelly had simply asked how many Ultra shares Portfolio Management held, he concluded that there might be developments in relation to Ultra and bought 10,000 shares.

During the second call Mr Kelly mentioned a price of 85p to which Mr Brown replied that it would be pointless to begin negotiations at less than 95p. Mr Kelly, Mr Brown alleges,

later called back saying that a straight purchase of 85p was unacceptable and unfolded the Rascal offer of 85p and a "topping up" in the event of a subsequent successful Rascal bid. Mr Brown said by early afternoon he was feeling unhappy about the purchase and approached a jobbing firm with a view to cancelling the deal. This proved impossible and he later sold the shares at a profit of about £7,000.

For his part, Mr Kelly had no recollection of making a telephone call to Mr Brown asking no more than the size of the Portfolio Management holding. He told the Panel that he had set in train a series of telephone calls to a number of clients and that by 11 am Rascal had secured around 10 per cent of Ultra.

The broker said that he had no recollection of a figure of 85p having been mentioned by Mr Brown, nor did he consult Mr Ernest Harrison, the chairman of Rascal, on any such figure. The Panel stated that Mr Brown's purchase appears to have been made some time between 10.30 am and 11 am.

In addition, the Panel considered a purchase of Ultra shares by an investment manager of a small merchant bank, having been informed by Mr Kelly of the offer to buy the holdings held by

clients, "bought shares for a close relative".

"The manager", the Panel found, "was entirely frank at all stages of the investigation and has admitted that the purchase was a mistake of judgment. In all the circumstances, as disclosed to us, we decided that the case could be adequately dealt with by a severe caution as to future conduct."

However, Mr Brown's actions merited "severe censure" and the profit on the deal should be handed over to charity approved by the Panel, which Mr Brown has done.

Mr Brown's solicitors stated last night that he maintained that "he had no knowledge of any impending bid for Ultra". It was pointed out that the Panel's findings were based on the evidence of conflicting recollections of telephone conversations which had taken place some six months previously and several important parts of Mr Kelly's evidence which supported Mr Brown's account had been omitted from the Panel's statement.

For example, Mr Kelly admitted "having a number of conversations with Mr Brown on February 17 but he could not say with certainty in which conversation he first informed Mr Brown of the possibility of a forthcoming bid".

The argument presented by Mrs Hook during the series of meetings which have taken place over the past few months with various government departments as well as the OFT is that to dissolve the travel industry's closed shop would not be in the best interests of consumers.

ABTA maintains that the rule which prevents member tour operators from selling foreign inclusive holidays through non-member agents is an essential component of its bonding scheme.

This safeguards users of coach, cruise and other types of surface holiday provided by ABTA members and strengthens the statutory arrangements for air travel holidaymakers. It also protects consumers from defaulting travel agents.

By David Blake

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### Breathing space for travel agents

A compromise agreement on restrictive practices in the travel industry has at last been reached between the Association of British Travel Agents and the Office of Fair Trading.

ABTA has failed to win special legislation to exempt it from the Restrictive Practices Court.

However, provided it is prepared to drop some of its restrictions immediately, the Office of Fair Trading has granted a one year respite before it will start any proceedings against the "closed shop" rule which ABTA maintains is vital to its effective operation.

To gain the deferment over the "closed shop" restriction ABTA must drop other rules which prevent travel agents from discounting prices and give more flexibility than exists at present for commission rates and methods of advertising.

The concessions are regarded by the negotiating committee headed by Mrs Margaret Hook, ABTA's president, as relatively minor compared with the closed shop rule.

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### RHM buys Missouri pasta maker

By Our Financial Staff  
Ranks Hovis McDougall has conditionally agreed to pay \$21.5m (£12.4m) for Ravarino and Freschi, a pasta products manufacturer of St Louis, Missouri.

The amount will be paid in cash and will be provided from the proceeds of RHM's recent \$40m Eurodollar bond issue.

Acquisition will include Trevelyan Inc in St Louis and Chicago, together with plant machinery and related assets. Ravarino and Freschi's net book value totals about \$9m and latest annual pre-tax profits amounted to about \$4m.

Acquisition takes RHM's pasta interests into the United States and complements the 72 per cent owned Gioia Macaroni Company of Buffalo in New York State, acquired in August last year. The Gioia plant was quickly followed by that of Red Wing, also of Buffalo, which produces tomato products, peanut butter and other preserves, and it is clear that the United Kingdom bakery group will be making further forays into the United States food market.

Indeed, the balance of the 9 per cent Eurodollar bond loan is already committed to potential American acquisitions, and the RHM group is primarily concerned with its maximum population density, middle America may again be the next target.

Selling operations of Gioia and Ravarino and Freschi are integrated and, despite the highly competitive nature of the United States food manufacturing market, RHM believes that the deal offers "very considerable potential".

By David Blake

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### 'Era of protectionism' feared as pressures against Tokyo grow

By Edward Townsend  
Forecasts that "a new era of protectionism" will begin in western Europe against imports of Japanese cars unless some of their enthusiasm for exporting is curbed by the manufacturers have been made in the latest issue of the Economist Intelligence Unit's Motor Business Journal.

Pressure in Europe for restrictions on imports grows day by day, it says, "and it is by no means unlikely that some action will be taken by government if the need arises".

Motor Business says there is evidence that the "agreement" by the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association to limit market penetration in the United Kingdom this year to the same 10 per cent level as 1976 will not be renewed for 1978. Even if it were, "there is nothing to stop the 10 per cent figure being breached because JAMA does not have the authority to dictate shipping

levels to individual manufacturers".

The Journal adds that the British Government has already made clear that the current level of car imports into the United Kingdom is "unacceptably high" and a further push on the part of the Japanese suppliers will inevitably be resisted.

Pressure is also building up in France to prevent the Japanese capturing more than 3 per cent of the market, it points out.

Establishment by the Japanese of major overseas assembly facilities is not seen as a solution. Despite persistent rumours that Toyota and Nissan intend to set up a joint American or western European location, they have been very reluctant to break away from their domestic manufacturing bases.

"The simple fact is that the socio-economic environment in Japan places a heavy emphasis on preserving job opportunities

in that country and therefore an extensive export effort will be preserved for as long as possible.

"It could be that the time is now approaching when a greater effort becomes self-defeating, and that is certainly the case if the mood in Europe is typical worldwide."

Motor Business predicts a rise of 7.7 per cent in Japanese car output next year to 5,500,000 units, although this is likely to reflect an increase in domestic demand rather than a rise in export volume.

In the first half of this year Japan's car exports increased by 10.2 per cent on the figure a year earlier to 1,400,000 units and "1977 will almost certainly be yet another record year".

Meanwhile, Datsun UK, which sells cars produced by Nissan, and is now the third largest car seller on the British market, is to export used cars from Britain to Japan in an attempt to ease anti-Japanese feeling.

By David Blake

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### Japan argues over cars for Britain

From Clifford Webb  
Tokyo, Oct 7  
The British Government's threat to introduce severe quota restrictions on Japanese car imports if their share of the market exceeds the 9.4 per cent "voluntary" ceiling has brought into the open a bitter row between Japanese car manufacturers.

Recent arrivals—notably Mitsubishi—are insisting that their share of the market should be protected by a "voluntary" ceiling. Datsun and Toyota should reduce their share to enable latecomers to increase theirs and still stay within the permitted ceiling.

Datsun sales account for 59 per cent of the total Japanese penetration of the British market.

Dr Tomio Kubo, president of Mitsubishi Motor Corporation, told a press conference here today: "Ideally, those who at present are the big volume exporters should be prepared to accept a 9.4 per cent ceiling."

Dr Kubo, who is also a vice president of the Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) went on: "There should be more flexibility among exporters. Just because a particular manufacturer has reached a certain level it seems so unreasonable to think that whether his product is good or bad he should continue to have the same share. There should be more cars for more competition."

He described the situation in the United Kingdom market as "very delicate". Mitsubishi were very concerned about its 1975 and 1980 sales figures. The company was investing £430m to increase its production capacity with a new factory and new models. It had, therefore, to take every opportunity to find markets for this extra capacity.

Mr Michael Orr, managing director of the Colt Car Company which handles all sales of Mitsubishi cars in Britain said some of the big makers would have to give away some of their share. At present, shipments to Britain were allocated through JAMA.

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### Higher prime rates revive the dollar

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By David Blake

### Expert panel of engineers to study differences in national productivity

Differences in industrial productivity between Britain and overseas countries are to be studied by the Fellowship of Engineering, the body of eminent engineers set up two years ago by the Council of Engineering Institutions.

Lord Hinton of Bankside, president of the fellowship, speaking at the National Maritime Institute, Falmouth, yesterday, said the aim was to hold a number of symposia on the subject of national productivity differences.

Other subjects to be studied included the use of newly-developed materials in all branches of engineering, the aspirations of young engineers and the reasons why able boys to select engineering as a career.

The fellowship had been launched to provide an elite body which would aim to do for engineering what the Royal Society did for science.

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### Further £600m gilts issue

The Bank of England yesterday took the Government's current year funding programme a stage further with the announcement of a new £600m issue of short-dated stock.

The first £300m issue of Treasury bills, due in 1981, is being issued as the second tranche in the refinancing of the two low coupon gilts that fall due for redemption over the next couple of months.

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### Carter rebuff to steel lobby

US Economics Correspondent  
Washington, Oct 7  
Mr Michael Blumenthal, the Treasury Secretary, said today that a straightforward programme to restrict steel imports into America was unlikely to improve the condition of the ailing steel industry.

His statement, and others made by Administration leaders, clearly indicate that President Carter is not prepared to bow to mounting pressures for tough new steel import quotas.

Latest figures show that these imports were higher in August than in any month since December, 1974—1.3 million tons—about 16 per cent above the July total.

### Business leaders visiting Vietnam

Paris, Oct 7—A delegation of European industrialists and bankers left here today for talks with the Vietnamese Government on its development plans.

The 14-man group, which will spend nearly a fortnight in Hanoi, is headed by M. Olivier Giscard d'Estaing, brother of the French president, and is made up of members and officials of Ciel—the Paris-based European Centre for International Cooperation, a unique partnership of European companies, banks and developing countries.

The delegation includes executives from Britain's Davy International as well as other leading European businesses, including Fiat, Hoechst, Paribas

### How the markets moved

The Times index: 217.90 + 0.27  
The FT index: 517.2 - 1.5

THE POUND

Bank of England

Bank of England

THE POUND

Bank of England

Bank of England

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## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Grouse

The 1973 Supply of Goods (Implied Terms) Act was a marvellous piece of consumer protection legislation which prevents anyone selling goods from escaping liability if the goods are defective. But, strictly speaking, that protection is available only to the person who actually bought the goods.

The result is that a curious anomaly exists where food (definitely goods within the Act) is concerned: only the customer enjoys the protection of the Supply of Goods Act. So what happens in a restaurant when both the host and his guests fall ill after eating a meal which, in the event, has proved less than satisfactory?

In this case only the actual buyer, the man who paid for the meal, will have an automatic claim for damages. The poor guests, suffering from the same stomach pains caused by the same food, might not succeed in getting damages because of the trivial difference that they had not paid the bill.

The host will have a claim because he bought the meal. It was an implied term of the sale that the food was safe to eat.

The guests (which includes family as well as friends) were not party to that sale and they would not have such a direct and simple claim against the restaurant. To obtain damages they would have to prove that the restaurant staff had in some way been negligent in the preparation of the food.

The host would not have to prove negligence—only the much simpler proposition that he had become ill as a result of eating the food. The fact that only the contracting party, the man who foots the bill for the meal, can claim if the contract is broken means that the guests cannot claim damages automatically.

It is a silly anomaly which ignores commonsense. This says that the same ill should merit the same redress, not to mention ease of redress. It was spotted as long ago as 1937 by the Law Revision Committee but no one has yet acted on their suggestion that it should be remedied.

## Time to put a brake on personalized bonds?

A controversial new kind of single-premium policy is dividing the linked life assurance industry. On the one hand are the protagonists of the new product, mainly the newer, smaller unit-linked offices; on the other are the long-established majors of the linked life industry. Ultimately, it will be the Inland Revenue which will decide which side is right.

The name of the game is "personalized bonds"—at least until somebody thinks of a better title.

In essence, the concept is very simple. If you have a large portfolio of stock exchange securities—equities or gilts—then you convert your holdings into your own private life fund and link a single-premium bond contract to it.

In other words the investor, now renamed a policyholder, although technically no longer the owner of the shares, which have been sold to the life office, has an advantageous life assurance policy based upon the identical holdings which continue to be managed by his own stockbroker.

The tax advantages are real. For a start, the income tax rate of life offices on their investment income is only 35

per cent (37½ per cent from property rentals) compared with the individual's own income tax rate in the higher tax brackets, not to mention the investment income surcharge.

By using a withdrawal scheme to tap the personalized life fund the investor can draw up to 5 per cent free of immediate taxes. The liability is deferred until the bond is cashed in, by which time the individual's tax rate may be much lower than it is now.

When the bond is cashed, the maturity proceeds, as with all single premium policies, are subject to higher rate taxes only and top-sliced (to take account of the number of years the bond was held) at that.

So it is apparent that when the private shareholder converts his holdings into a single premium policy he is doing so to take advantage of the tax concessions applied to life assurance. He is, in the jargon, "tax sheltering" his funds.

It is this blatant tax avoidance—which is legitimate, compared with evasion, which is not—that is worrying many people within the life assurance industry.

Abbey Life, Hambro Life,

Vanbrugh Life and Save and Prosper are four of the biggest unit-linked life offices in the country and they have all, in private, come out very strongly against personalized bonds. I say "in private" deliberately, because their strong belief—shared incidentally with the companies which are selling these bonds—is that no publicity is best of all.

"We are," said David Morris, marketing director of Vanbrugh, "very concerned with the ramifications about the abuse of life assurance." Fred Richardson, Abbey Life's managing director, said: "We'd rather nobody had thought of them."

He added: "There is a limit to which you can take the reasonably proper tax advantages of life assurance."

The argument against personalized bonds is basically that it is a product which takes advantage of tax legislation which was not written with personalized bonds in mind. That, by itself, would not be sufficient reason to draw back from them, as anyone who remembers, first, family bonds in the mid-sixties and then guaranteed income bonds earlier this decade, will know.

Both functioned in a vacuum created by the absence of relevant tax law and nobody was very surprised when the Revenue jumped, and jumped hard, on them.

The Inland Revenue, with its notoriously suspicious nature, is known to have been querying in recent years some of the tax aspects of life assurance and the industry is keeping its fingers crossed that it will not take action against personalized bonds ("We know they exist," the Revenue says). If it does happen, what frightens companies with a long-term stake in the linked-life business is that it may be impossible to distinguish between the baby and the bathwater.

In short, if single premium personalized bonds are hit, how will it be possible to avoid hitting the conventional forms of single-premium bonds linked to a broad range of equities, property and gilts? The single-premium contracts of some 20 million policyholders could be put at risk.

The main groups offering bonds of this kind are Trident Life, Lloyd's Life, Property Group, Merchants Investors, Lloyds Bank through its Beehive range, Tyndall, Grosvenor

Life and recently Amey Life and Albany Life. Schroder Life, which set the ball rolling about 18 months ago, has since pulled out.

Schroder Life withdrew because the administrative expenses of personalized bonds are high and also because it became aware of the long-term implications as more and more companies joined up. Lloyd's Life was probably the second company to join the field, and its complaint is that others are taking the product into the market too aggressively, by lowering the minimum investment from its own level of £100,000 to much less. Indeed, Trident Life accepts portfolios as low as £25,000 for bond conversion.

One thing common to all the companies in the personalized bond business is their reluctance to market or promote the schemes. All present I am sitting on the fence in the debate, but one cannot help wondering why, if the companies concerned are so certain about the ethics of the personalized bond, as they all say they are, having given the matter much thought, they are so worried about publicizing it. Do they protest too much?

What I do find disturbing is how far from the ideal can personalized bonds have already developed. At first they were dreamt up for individuals with a stake in a company with which they had personal connections. The idea then snowballed into a few schemes for very wealthy clients with large existing portfolios.

The next step was when a selected investment was made beforehand—such as a specific gilt-edged stock—for bond conversion. Now the industry is already talking about stockbroker bonds for personal clients.

Each stage has been accompanied by worried "Don't like it" by people in this section of the business, as well as by others outside. The question must be: when will the Revenue be pushed into officially disliking it, too?

One would like to caution the industry to moderation. But this, probably too late for that, personalized bonds now seem to have their own momentum. But unless the brakes are put on pretty quickly, the industry may live to regret them.

Margaret Stone

## Taxation

## If you are disputing the bill, pay something on account

As many readers will know from bitter experience, the rules introduced some two years ago for speeding up payment of tax and for charging interest on unpaid tax, are being rigidly enforced—so rigidly that inequities can and do arise.

Looking back at what used to be the case, one can see, from the Treasury's cash flow point of view, why a change was necessary. A great deal of tax is collected by direct assessment, for example, on income such as profits, rents, deposit account interest, etc. More often than not, the tax office does not get the income figures in time to raise accurate assessments, so it issues estimated ones instead. In these assessments are stated the amount of income estimated to be taxable and the amount of tax considered to be payable on the normal due date (this date varies according to the type of income).

Before the new rules came into force it was quite easy to delay paying one's tax bill and to avoid being charged interest on it. By appealing against the amount of income assessed, the normal due date for payment of tax could be postponed until 30 days after the liability had been finally settled with the tax office, which could take many months and sometimes years.

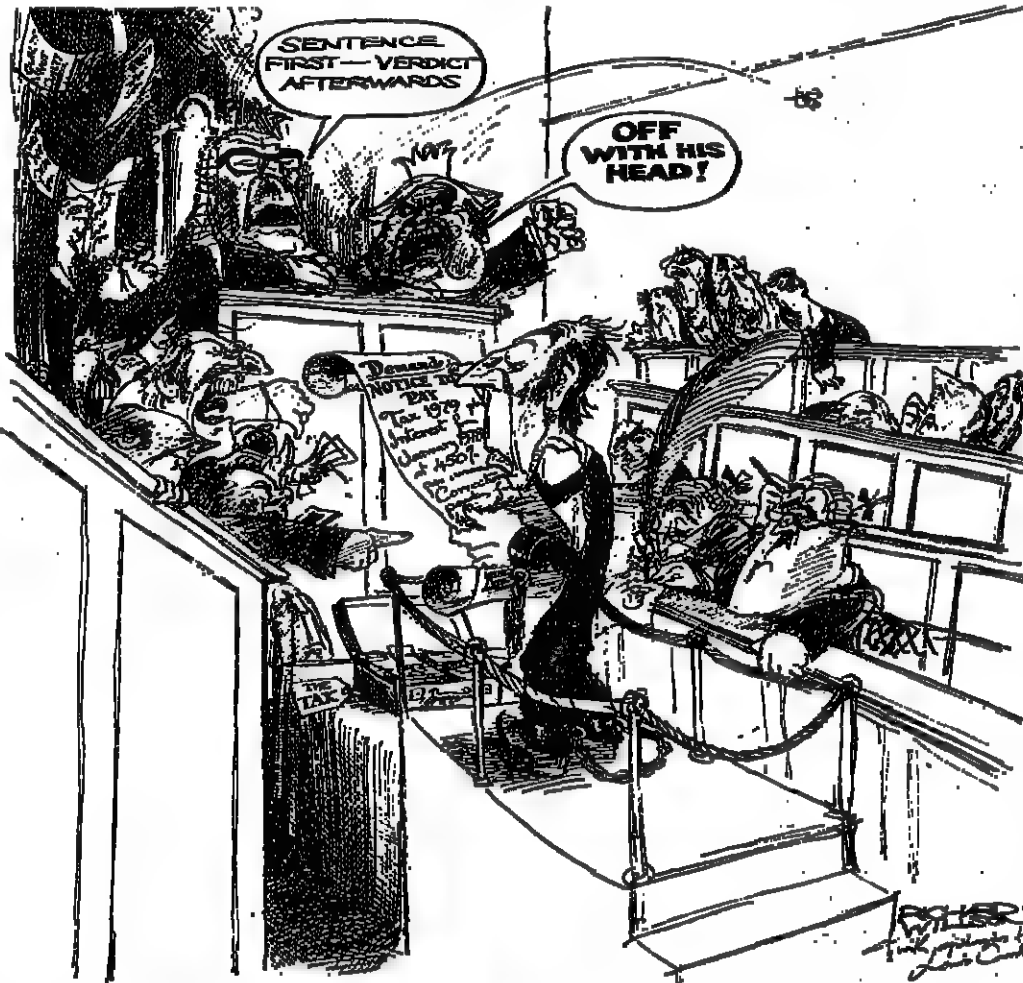
And interest did not start to run until the postponed payable date. Even then, interest was remitted if the tax outstanding was below £1,000 (no matter how long it took to pay up—billiards permitting) or if the tax was paid up within two months of the payable date (whatever the amount) or if the interest itself was £5 or less.

Things are now very different, and an appeal against the amount of income assessed is not sufficient to put off the evil day. To achieve this, the amount of tax assessed must be excessive must be quantified, and the grounds on which it is considered to be excessive must be given. The tax is thus divided into two parts, that which is payable on the normal due date (and if it is not paid at the proper time interest will be charged) and the tax which is in dispute.

The tax in dispute will be held over until the liability is agreed but the rub is that interest on it can only be delayed for six months after the normal due date. For example, those who have a tax liability which was normally due for payment on January 1, 1977, but currently remains unpaid, will find they are incurring a charge to interest from July 1, 1977 until payment, although of course the impact of it cannot be calculated until the amount of the outstanding tax bill is finally agreed. The interest will be remitted only if it does not exceed £10.

The charge to interest will arise from the dates I have mentioned, regardless of the date on which a demand note is received from the Collector of Taxes. Now this is where inequities can arise, because there is any delay in the demand note reaching the taxpayer, perhaps because the collector of taxes has been delayed in dispatch, or the postal service has been worse than usual, he or she may unwittingly be caught for interest.

An acquaintance of mine felt sufficiently aggrieved to take



his case to the Ombudsman. The substance of this particular case was that an assessment had been issued in mid-November 1975, well before the tax payable date of January 1, 1976. As it happens, the collector of taxes gave the taxpayer a demand for interest running from January 1, 1976, until the tax office received the cheque.

For his pains the taxpayer was awarded an apology for the Inland Revenue's delay, but nothing more. It was pointed out that the Inland Revenue was acting within the law in charging interest, as the

taxpayer did in fact know there was a liability and should have paid it on time, regardless of whether he received a correct demand note.

So taxpayers beware! The interest continues to be 9 per cent net of tax despite the recent tumble in rates, which makes it a little under 14 per cent gross for the basic rate taxpayer, rising to an astronomical 450 per cent for the very well off.

Vera Di Palma

## Motor insurance

## The useful art of making a claim

Every motorist claims on his policy, on average, about once every seven years, although that period is coming down owing to an unexplained increase in claims incidence. But, of course, the law of averages does not always run true to form.

Many motorists unfortunately make a claim soon after taking down their "L" plates; others drive for years, on the top rate of no-claim discount, before becoming involved in the hard bargaining of a claim.

Most accidents involve another car. Part of the "art" of making a claim is being able to convince your own insurers that the accident was caused solely by the other fellow and, but for the existence of the insurers' knock-for-knock agreement, they would

have been able to recover the full amount of your claim from him, or from his insurers.

Success on this point means that your no-claim discount may not be reduced at renewal, even though your own insurers will have paid for the cost of repairing the car, apart from the first £25 or so, for which you may be responsible under the terms of the policy.

Get as much information as possible at the time of an accident—such as the name and address of the driver and the registration number of the car. Also, ask for confirmatory evidence. Some motorists give false names and addresses, perhaps because they do not believe in spending money on insurance (despite the fact

that some cover is required by law) or because they do not want to hazard their no-claims discount at renewal.

If possible, try to take the names and addresses of one or two witnesses. Their evidence could prove helpful, although two people who witness the same event may describe it in very different ways.

Even if it looks as though it may not be necessary to make a claim—if, for instance, the cost of the repair is likely to be within the uninsured "excess" figure—your insurers should be told about the accident. It is just possible that, at a later date, the other motorist may put in a claim against you.

Unless your own insurers have been told of the accident at the time, they may be able

to side-step a claim at a later stage.

Often, an accident involves dealing not only with your own insurers, but also the other motorist's company. For instance, if you are convinced that the accident was caused solely as a result of his negligence, you can try to recover the amount of the repairs from the other motorist's insurers, which you cannot claim from your own insurers due to the application of the excess.

If successful, your own insurers may regard this as "proof" that, but for the existence of the knock-for-knock agreement, they would have been able to make a full recovery.

If it looks as though your car will be off the road for some time because of the other motorist's negligence, you may

need to hire a replacement car for yourself. Unfortunately, when faced with this proposition, the other motorist's insurers are unlikely to say that they will meet the cost, less the normal running expenses which you would have experienced with your own car.

The more or less stock answer is that, if it is your hiring, they will consider it. This means that you may (or may not) be able to recover the bulk of the cost.

Insurers probably save a lot of money since, clearly, many motorists decide not to hire a replacement because they do not want to risk failing to make a recovery from the other side.

John Drummond

## Insurance

## An excess clause for your household policy?

"... agreed to give subsidence cover a few years ago..."

## Insurance

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"... agreed to give subsidence cover a few years ago..."



a similar reduction in the company's running expenses.

One solution, which has been tried by some insurers, has been to give wider cover for both buildings and contents—on "all risks" terms, but to impose an excess so that the first £15 (or more) of any claim is not covered.

In theory, that should be a sensible arrangement. After all, presumably most people do not want to be faced with expensive fortuitous damage which, as a result of "small print", or anything else, is not covered. In a way, it is a matter of luck

that the insurance industry agreed to give subsidence cover a few years ago—before it was appreciated how serious the damage could be.

Otherwise all those in the South-east and elsewhere, where houses have been damaged due to the drying out of clay subsoil etc would have had to meet the cost themselves. Incidentally, most policies do not cover "heave" so that a company can turn down a claim if it is due to the ground rising, after heavy rainfall etc.

Admittedly, "all risks" cover on buildings with a fairly sub-

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## 8% CAN BE BETTER THAN 11%

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An original investor in this Fund has experienced a consistent rise in income and is now receiving a yield of 15.54% on his original investment. So, when considering a high income unit trust, don't just look at the advertised gross current yield. Ask yourself also how likely that yield is to increase over the years, and what prospects there may be for capital growth. Long-term investors, therefore, tend to avoid holdings such as preference shares, where the return is fixed and capital growth is potential limited. The M&G High Income Fund, currently investing more than 95% in equities, provides an opportunity for you to invest in a successful UK Trust whose aim is to provide a high and growing income at least 80% higher than the return from shares in general, with prospects of capital growth. The estimated gross current yield is 8% at the latest buying price of 103.2p.

Unit Trusts are a long-term investment and not suitable for money that you may need at short notice.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

Prices in this paper in the F.T. daily. There is a charge of 3.5% initially and 1% plus VAT annually. Distributions are made on 31 January and 31 July of basic rate tax. The next distribution date for new investors will be 31 January 1978. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for purchases or sales will be due for settlement 2 or 3 weeks later. 11% commission is payable to accredited agents, Trustees, Cyrenna Bank Limited. The Fund is a wide-range security fund authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade. M&G is a member of the Unit Trust Association.

#### TWO WAYS TO INVEST

In addition to investing a capital sum as mentioned above you can start a Regular Monthly Saving Plan through a life assurance policy for as little as £10 monthly and you are normally entitled to claim tax relief at current rates of £17 for each £100 paid. On a £10 Plan, tax relief at present rates can bring down your net monthly cost to only £8.30, with which you buy units worth considerably more.

Regular investment of this type also means that you can take advantage of the inevitable fluctuations in the price of units through Pound Cost Averaging. This gives you a positive arithmetical advantage, because your regular investment buys more units when the price is low and fewer when it is high. You also get life cover of at least 100 times your monthly payment throughout the period if your age at entry is 54 or under (women 58), and rather less up to 75.

If you cash in or stop your payments during the first four years, there is a penalty and the tax authorities require you to make a declaration, so you should consider the Plan for less than five years. 81% to 94% (depending on your starting age) is invested each year in the first two years when an additional 20 per cent is retained to meet setting up expenses.

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#### TWO WAYS TO INVEST

**1** M&G GROUP LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6EQ. TELEPHONE: 01-626 4588. This section to be completed by all applicants.

(a) ☐ **REGULAR INVESTMENT**

SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_

(b) ☐ **ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT**

POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

**EITHER £500** Complete this section to make a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest £ \_\_\_\_\_ in INCOME/ACCUMULATION units (debts as applicable or income units will be issued) of the M&G High Income Fund at the price ruling on receipt of this application. Do not send any money. I agree that my investment will be subject to the usual risks of investment and I understand that I may not be able to withdraw my money for a period of 12 months from the date of my investment. I agree that I am not resident outside the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Gibraltar and I am not a resident of any of those territories. (If you are unable to make this declaration you should apply through a bank or stockbroker.)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**OR £10** Complete this section if you wish to make a Regular Monthly Saving (minimum £10 a month).

I wish to save £ \_\_\_\_\_ each month in the M&G High Income Fund. I enclose my cheque for the first monthly payment, made payable to M&G Trust (Assurance) Limited.

I understand that this investment is subject to the usual risks of investment and I agree that I am not resident outside the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Gibraltar and I am not a resident of any of those territories. (If you are unable to make this declaration you should apply through a bank or stockbroker.)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AND ADDRESS OF USUAL DOCTOR (to whom reference may be made)

Are you an existing M&G High Income Fund investor?

If you cannot sign Part 1 of the Declaration below, declare and Sign Part 2: Declaration PART 2 I declare that, to the best of my belief, I am in good health and I am not suffering from any illness which might affect my ability to work. I do not engage in any hazardous sports or pursuits, and I do not engage in any occupation which might affect my ability to work. I agree that I am not resident outside the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or Gibraltar and I am not a resident of any of those territories. (If you are unable to make this declaration you should apply through a bank or stockbroker.)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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[illegible]

New York, Oct. 7.—Price New York Stock Exchange lower in light trading, doing a low-key early

the Dow Jones industrial fell 1.73 points to 8, though it was up over a in the session. Advances led declines by to about 590. Volume 0,000 shares, down.

traders related the gain  
to the Federal Reserve  
late Thursday of a  
steep decline in the  
y.

...the Fed to  
policy, pushing short  
est rates higher.  
...a prime rate in  
per cent from 7 1/2 per  
spread through  
banking industry

the Fed indicated strong money market that is relaxing credit policy. It raised its target

...the news that the unemployment rate in September slipped 0.1 per cent from 7.1 per cent in the previous month.

**d closes \$2.80 up**  
ago, Oct. 7.—**GOLD** on active trading on the Commodity Exchange and International Monetary Market. The Comex was \$1.80 to

On the IMM prices were  
 .80 higher. NY COMEX  
 70 Nov. \$158.50; Dec. \$1  
 \$153.00; Apr. \$162.50;  
 80: Aug. \$185.00; Oct. \$1  
 \$167.50; Feb. \$160.00;  
 90: June. \$172.40; Aug. \$1  
 CO IMM. Dec. \$157.50-1  
 \$160.20-106.10; June. \$1  
 asked; Dec. \$158.00;

R.—Prices closed with  
of 0.30 to 0.30 cent an  
464.50; Nov. 466.70c;  
Dec. Jan. 472.00c;  
Dec. May, 483.80c; July, 48  
Dec. March, 514.50c;  
496.00c; Dec. 505.18c;  
Dec. July, 536.80c. Hand

Nov. 56.90c; Dec. 57.70c; March, 58.70c; July, 60.80c; Sept. 62.80c; Jan. 63.90c; May, 64.80c; July, 65.60c. Prices ended 0.06 higher.

5.50¢; March, 55.80-6.35¢  
 —Prices closed in  
 1.65 to 2.45 cents h  
 183.45¢; March, 183.45¢;  
 July, 149.10¢; Sept., 14  
 38.40¢. Spots: Ghana and

100 lb. Futures in 'C' contract  
 went to two cents higher:  
 100-lb. March, 145.00c;  
 100-lb. July, 140.75-10c;  
 100-lb. Dec., 134.00-50c; 100-lb.  
 135.50c.

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firm throughout at 57-6 per cent, mostly at the higher end. Temporary bill rates continued to rise after the 1 per cent

STRAIGHTS		Bid	Ask
3s 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1983	..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1985	..	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$

Canada	1987	103%
USA	1981	102%
7 <sup>th</sup>	1981	100%
1986		99%
8 <sup>th</sup>	1984	101%
1988		98%
Quilting	8 <sup>th</sup> 1983	98%
1984		100%
1984		98%
1987		98%

1984	107
1986 (March)	102
Western R., 1983	99
Mersey R., 1984	101
1987	99

er Market

	Change	Gross Dividend	Yield	P/E
1970	—	4.2	10.5	7
1971	+1	18.4	12.4	—
1972	—	3.3	9.1	15
1973	—	12.0	8.8	9

—	10.3	6.3	6.
—	17.5	9.8	—
—	11.5	8.5	6.
—	2.4	2.0	11.
—	5.0	8.7	6.
—	6.0	5.7	9.

+1	27.0	8.8	5
—	—	—	—
—	12.0	15.7	—
—1	7.0	11.1	7
—	6.4	7.7	6

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C grade, Oct-Nov, \$5.38  
 ton, D grade, Oct-Nov  
 Calcutta was firm—Indian  
 R.545 per bale of 100lbs.  
 Tossa Folz, spot, Rs545.  
**GRAIN** (The Baltic).—Wheat  
 Canadian western red spring  
 131, per cent, Oct, \$82.8  
 \$83.80; Dec \$85.55. Tulluru  
 northern spring No 2 13 p  
 Oct, \$77.05. Nov, \$79.05  
 ECC for average quality Oct

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**Forward Levels**  
 3 months 2 1/2  
 6 months 2 1/2  
 12 months 2 1/2

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1976/77		1976/77		1976/77		1976/77	
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer	Bid	Offer
<p><b>M &amp; C Securities</b></p> <p>Three Quay, Tower Hill, Essex RM1. 01-261 4338</p> <p>1st &amp; 2nd Acs 17.50 17.50</p>							
<p><b>Albany Life Assurance Co Ltd</b></p> <p>100 Old Burlington Street, W. 01-267 3962</p> <p>17.50 17.50</p>							
<p><b>Prudential</b></p> <p>25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4A 3DF</p> <p>14.00 14.25</p>							

[illegible]



§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
*Afore ye go*



## Weekend

Chess players can sharpen their skills by pitting them against an electronic rival called the Chess Challenger. This scientific opponent is hard to beat, but has been beaten and is far from being a mindless piece of equipment. On the highest "skill level" he considers his moves for anything up to half a minute, carefully considering the strategy and analysing the moves so far.

He is built into a chess-board, a normal, not-too-heavy board that is about 12 inches thick and about 12 by 8 inches long and wide with a laminated top to prevent spills falling into the precious innards although the makers would prefer that you avoid spilling coffee or wine anyway. He is fashionably brown and white, white and black being rather demodé in the computer world. His squares are numbered so upwards and lettered across so that each

move is instantly and clearly identified on the keyboard—it works rather like a map reference but is quicker to operate, being used like a calculator.

He can be used to set problems, to polish up openings and ends and to improve the game of even the most skilful players or of course one can play a complete game. He cannot cheat or make basic errors and he never talks through the game or distracts his opponent. So relax with him or get the chess adrenalin going to fight him.

Chess Challenger is made by Data Efficiency, a company specializing in computer accessories. There are two designs. One is the Starter, which is for those whose skills need tuition: that costs £150. The improved player can then upgrade his or her opponent by sending another £50 for the Master or, if confident about the game, can send off £200 right away for the Master, which has three

built-in "skill levels". At the lower level, you might expect to win about half the games and to wait only a couple of seconds while he considers then signals his move on the keyboard. The Master's top level may need to consider your move for up to half a minute before committing himself. The electronic board sells complete with traditional-style wooden chessmen which do have to be moved by hand and which do not sprint electronically or magnetically from square to square. You can buy it directly from Data Efficiency, Maxted Road, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 7LE (tel. Hemel Hempstead 57137). There are leaflets, not extravagant but explanatory.

A natural for teaching and clubs' establishments, the Chess Challenger can also be a boon companion to the lonely, housebound or fanatic chess player who has a handy electricity plug and £200.

Time is Precious at Garrard of 112 Regent Street, the Crown Jewellers. And what a superb exhibition their display of timepieces under that name turns out to be. The Audemars Piguet watches are especially lovely and I particularly love the transparent watches—one of such watches, not by Audemars Piguet, has been featured on this page before. Here at Garrard you can see several and why not since Audemars Piguet prides itself on using the finest materials and the most skilled craftsmen. Thus, to see such quality of workmanship and materials is a delight. There is a marvellous one to wear as pendant or on the waist-chain, an 18-carat white gold pocket watch set with 69 diamonds weighing 1.9 carats. There are not only clocks and watches costly beyond most people's wildest extravaganzas, but many whose good value would surprise you.

When you go, give yourself time to wander around the emporium of jewelled silver and gold beauty. Love the silver gilt pieces, the wine wagons and salt cellars of the early or middle nineteenth century. Gloat over the beautifully worked spoons or the salt cellars, each a work of art in itself, ornate with a mermaid and her mirror at the top of the handle. The place makes me long for an unlimited bank account and a home in which to set the precious possessions but in no-way makes me feel envious, only glad that such stores can still exist and that such treasures can still be bought, sold and admired for their beauty as well as the history locked into most pieces.

It had to come, the children's book club, and I am glad that it has. There is so little stimulus for junior schoolchildren and parents are often as much to blame for this particular kind of negligence as schools. The children are allowed comics but all too rarely encouraged to pick and choose for themselves, to consider and make their own decisions thus shaping their own tastes. The Skylark Children's Book Club is for seven to 10 year olds.

In the end, parents will probably pay for the books which will be offered on a monthly basis at £2.50 each plus 45p postage, etc, but children can build up their own contemporary libraries with pride just the same. Parents will be able to consider other books besides the set monthly book, all offered at good value prices. Members get a colourful magazine with their book of the month. The name is Skylark and this first issue has an interview with the young man who plays William, some make-it-yourself shelves for the books, a puzzle, recipe, football quiz, short story and features about cowboys. The first six books include a history, an encyclopedia, stories, and so on. All details from Skylark BGA, PO Box 19, Swindon, Wilts.

shire SN1 5AX. The introductory offer is three books for £1 plus 80p postage/packing.

If you do not already know the magazine *Books for your Children*, perhaps it is time that you did. A well-arranged mixture of editorial with plenty of advertising gives you the best, as seen by the tireless editor, of all the books published for the young and very young. An inspired help for parents who live far from shops and, I feel, a basis for discussion with the potential reader for I am a great believer in encouraging every child, however young, to be in on the decision about what he or she should read. When the book is finished, the parents ought to discuss it with the child to help an individual and considered development of the child's taste, giving it self-confidence as well as the desire to read and enjoy more reading. This magazine is published by yet another children's book club with an initial offer of three for £1 plus 80p plus monthly offers and the address is Church Lane, Clifton Wood, Bristol. I need hardly say that children cannot enter into contracts and that this must in all cases be done by parents, other relatives or friends over 18.

## SHOP AROUND



Musical boxes are among the most romantic of all collectors' treasures and all too few charming or tasteful examples of this genre have been made in recent years. Thus I was excited to find one at Halcyon Days. A small hand-painted pear, made of pear wood and standing some three inches high, this lovely little fruit looked too delicate and pretty to handle but I was encouraged to pick it up and to open it, watched by faces which obviously controlled their pleasure at what I would find.

What I did find as I took the pear's top half off was a tiny, tiny musical movement and the pins began to play "A partridge in a pear tree" in tinkling, silvery notes. To see the miniature musical movement at work was part of the pleasure—the whole song is called "The Twelve days of Christmas" and that must make this pear the gift of the year at this time besides offering an adorable collector's item. The music is a bonus in any case because the pear itself is so prettily painted, turning to honey yellow at the edges to enclose a luxurious tree house with golden pears in which the plump partridge is settled. Every pear is individually painted by Anthony Phillips and there are no two exactly alike. Each sells with its own certificate of origin, signed by the artist and the price is £75 for each of a limited edition of 200. You can order by post with absolute confidence from Halcyon Days, 14 Brook Lane, London W1Y 1AA (01-499 5784).

The latest colourful little catalogue should be ready soon and a visit to Halcyon Days is well worth while at any time for collectors of pretty and sentimental objects, but there are some particularly lovely things there at the moment. The collection of antique enamel work, from tiny boxes to large candlesticks, must be unique as the owner, Susan Benjamin, is now such a recognized authority on the subject and is in the final stages of finishing a lavishly illustrated book she has been commissioned to write. It took her nearly 10 years of research, study and collecting boxes, following up the history and manufacturing history of them and finding the right frame to make and enamel the boxes before she could revive this ancient craft. Her enamellers were in the refrigerator cabinet business, enamelling white on to large areas but were attracted with the idea of readjusting their skills to romanticism and thrilled when romance took over completely from refrigeration. Now her little boxes are sold all over the world and she has a large number of tiny ones with loving messages at lower prices since not everyone can or even wants to buy the limited editions.

Of the latter, one of the latest commemorates the first performance of Swan Lake at

Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre in 1877. The box is decorated with scenes from the ballet, drawn by Shirley Curzon and delicately hand-coloured. In panels against eau-de-nil or hyacinth blue stippled backgrounds there is an inscription to describe the occasion when the ballet was danced to the music of Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

Inside the base are the opening bars of the dance of the cygnets inscribed beneath a thumbnail sketch of a pair of ballet pumps. The box is 2 1/2 inches across and the price is £75—each of the 500 sells (many have sold already) with the usual certificate of authenticity.

In different vein but just as appealing in its own way is another box to recall the Wright Brothers' biplane flight of 1903, 75 years ago. This box, with the drawings naturally on sky blue also honours early aviators like Santos Dumont (1906), Blériot (1909), Henri Farman (1908) and A. V. Roe (1909) whose name became, with the final "e" dropped from the surname, the name of the famous aircraft company.

Only 250 are being made to sell at £40 each. There is a shadow, sepia and black box to commemorate *Connoisseur* magazine, some superb little boxes at £50 featuring shooting, sailing, fishing and hunting with some especially colourful scenes of the latter which rarely appear on pieces of this kind (£50). Sentimental posies on a quilted ground and a heap of other temptations are now in the little shop near Hanover Square and I know how many *Times* readers collect Susan Benjamin's enameled.

She has, as many others are beginning to have, painted (some an example of which is the little owl shown here—the paintings are on stones that remind the artist of the shape of the animal and there are fat cats, marmalade cats, grinning lions, cat with kittens, seal with baby seal and so on (from about £15/£18 upwards)). The same artist paints on ivory, marble and some very unusual stone or valuable stone backgrounds from around £20 with the rare marbles working out at around £60. The wooden trinkets and sewing stands are also perfectly done and, all in all, you will enjoy this little Aladdin's cave.

## Sheila Black

An unusual little paperback is *The Woodburning Book*, published by Broadleys, Widdington, Saffron Walden, Essex (Saffron Walden 40922). It is the first on a number of aspects of wood as an important fuel and costs £1 plus 10p postage. There is advice on storing wood properly to get maximum heat output and on managing a woodstove on your own land as well as collecting it from other land. I believe you should check the comment about common land as some village commons are still privately owned and, although people have a good many rights thereon, they may not have rights to pick up anything such as wood which belongs to the rightful owner, who often likes his common cleared of fallen wood in any case and would certainly give permission if asked.

More useful, and not expensive at £1 if you think how much it costs to write to all importers and makers for leaflets, is the brief "catalogue" of stoves advertised and featured therein. You may find many, many landowners only too willing to part with some elm logs as these trees fall prey to the dread disease. It is also worth asking friends with a lot of pine and fir trees about a possible overabundance of logs as these trees have up to be periodically felled because they are shallow-rooted and can get dangerous as they age.

Sadly, there is often more wood to be picked up in towns and cities than can be burned in homes in these—possibly smokeless zones. In London,

Birmingham and Liverpool I have noticed, on recent dashes in a car from here to there, that the streets are as full of rubbish skips as ever during the property boom and most of them bulge with doors, door and window frames and odd bits of wood. I gather and board them, giving them to country visitors or even taking them down as gifts when I go out there. Most of the heavier beams, rafters and joists need sawing into shorter lengths, it is true, but I go round their girths with an electric Black & Decker saw and the middle is easily and quickly finished off. The old, seasoned wood burns slowly and gives great heat. Not beautiful, but you can always keep the coal and the eye-catching logs for when you are there and burn the uglies in your absence or when the suitable wood-stove is closed. Builders welcome help with disposing of the rubbish.

There are other useful "fiery" paperbacks. *Stove Book* is a feast for the eyes rather than a practical catalogue but it is that too since some of the lovely pieces featured are on sale today while others give you ideas if you do go hunting old stoves to be cleaned and restored. A bit of a luxury at £2.95 but a very glossy, pleasing luxury. Published by Matthews Miller Dunbar, 51 Endell Street, London, WC2 9 AJ. My one objection to it is to make my mouth water for a stove when I have a lovely warm open fireplace anyway.

A couple of very good and highly professional do-it-yourself type who have done a certain amount of commercial

The Lux soap company have made up and are giving patterns for sewing dairy accessories like bath caps with frilled edges like mob caps; bath pillows also with frilled edges; tissue box cover with no frills but with diagonal bands to hold the shape; and a little drawstring cosmetic or whammy bag. For the illustrated instruction sheets write to Lux Beauty Soap, 114 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9AB, and get out your prettiest fabrics to make presents for you and your friends.

Designers Guild, the mecca of pretty fabrics along with Laura Ashley and Liberty or John Lewis branches, is selling off thousands of metres of fabrics at anything from £1 to £2.50 a metre instead of £5 to £8.50 a metre. The pricing is only marginally imperfect for their high standards. Wallpaper, for the same reason that the colours do not exactly match, is at £1.50 a roll and there are also real bargains in furniture which has been less popular than it ought to have been during the past year so that corner units, usually £600, are now £300. Designers Guild is at 277 King's Road, London SW3 5EN. The sale starts on October 10 and you can telephone 01-351 1271 for all details.

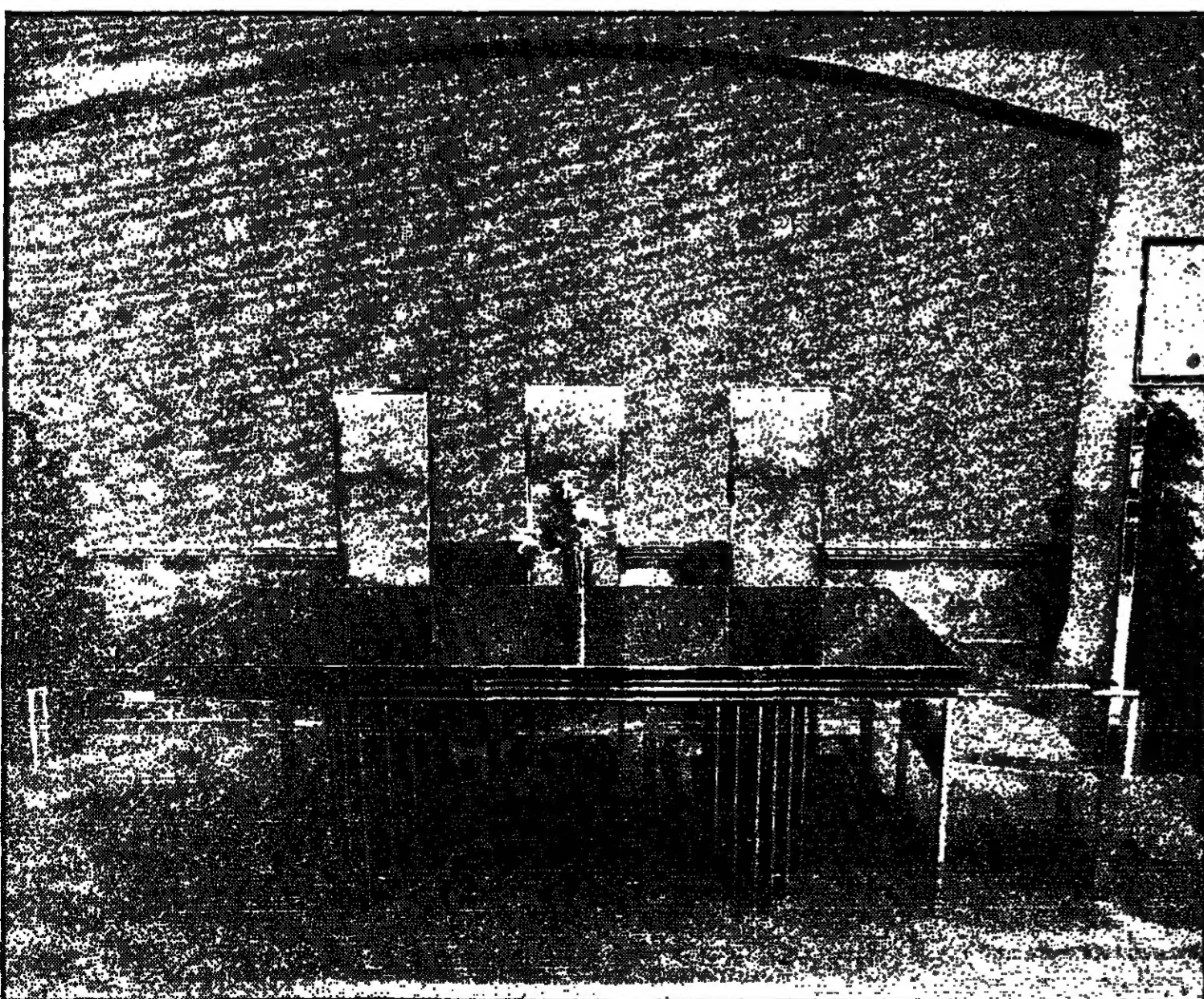
I hear that children are delighted with bedspreads that are painted and flattened Rolls-Royce's with that famous radiator over the bed's foot and the studded bonnet along the bed so that the steering wheel is right under the child's hands. They cost £13.95 at Harrods and I do think parents ought to remember that such crazes do not last for ever and that they are hardly decorative, only amusing. Red, yellow or green.

W. H. Smith is offering some Christmas gift bargains from and including October 11 to October 31. You will get £6 off the *Scaltec* sets which will come down to £18.95 off normal recommended retail prices. The popular Hornby train set will be down by £3 to £11.50 and you can get £4.25 off the *Petite* typewriter which really does work, absorbs children of a wide age group will sell at £10.50 (do remember to get extra ribbons as they are very hard to find after Christmas when games are cleared from the shelves and have to be ordered then).

Monopoly (£2 cheaper at £2.55), Othello (down from £4.25 to £2.89), and Mastermind

(now down 40p at 65p) are among the all-time games in this special Christmas sale but there are newer, less familiar games as well as spy games like *Microdot*, the horror games like *Dracula* and *Hangman*. You have just 20 days to go budget shopping before Smith's mark off the prices again. I am not saying that you will not see the same electric and non-electric games and toys more cheaply or for the same price elsewhere and I know there are some real toy and game bargains at the Debenhams stores. But I am recommending these as good bargains if you do not want to trail-fare than your local WHS.

Trouble over the pilot's cases with the piano-hinge "lids", this page last week. The vinyl, simulated versions are £40, not £25 and they were not at Harrods although the distributor believed they were. The £112 cowhide pilot's cases at Harrods, together with Revelation and Asprey. The name, Continental 500, belongs to a set of carrying wheels for cases which I plan to feature soon. A case of crossed lines.



The style of ROR, which stands for Ringo or Robin, is so highly individual, so chic and so very modern-elegant that there are few other stockists although ROR may be able to tell you of some. It has its devotees, this chrome, glass, smoke glass table range, and I can assure you that their upholstery, richly covered or simply done, is really comfortable and practical at the same time.

Their customers make the pilgrimage to 143 Grosvenor Road, London, SW1, with a definite excitement. At this address, on the embankment near what is always called the Hovis Bridge but is actually the Vauxhall Bridge, is Francis Wharf, conveniently near side streets

with meters and opposite a small car park. Francis Wharf is a village of ateliers, building shops, and trade emporiums which attract architects. You climb the steep wooden stairs to ROR but, of durable man-made materials designed with love and experience and made by craftsmen with traditional skills. Whatever you look at is original.

Ringo Starr (of the Beatles) and Robin Cruikshank have been designing furniture together for seven years—and I knew of Robin's designing ways many years before 1970. Ringo brought his engineering knowledge and experience from pre-musician days along with utterly refreshing ideas and an original approach to complement Robin's training

get in and out of low chairs, or low for loungers.

Then you start talking about the furniture and examining it and you discover that everything is as practical as it can be. Of durable man-made materials designed with love and experience and made by craftsmen with traditional skills. Whatever you look at is original.

Ringo Starr (of the Beatles) and Robin Cruikshank have been designing furniture together for seven years—and I knew of Robin's designing ways many years before 1970. Ringo brought his engineering knowledge and experience from pre-musician days along with utterly refreshing ideas and an original approach to complement Robin's training

in art school and with Terence Conran. They make a good pair.

Here you see chairs combining state-of-the-art and dignity with total modernity. The curved backs of stainless steel look like mirror steel which is the only thing. The upholstery is firm but welcoming. The dining suite is majestic and imposing with tall, tall chair backs against which you can lean your head as you listen to raconteurs or tell your own tales. The long table stands on supports which are in themselves pieces of sculptured engineering and deserve no name as banal as legs. They are well away from diners' knees and give no obstruction—a typical ROR approach.

There is also a terrific occasional table, low and honey-warm with a bronze-glass top on an angled pillar of mirror stainless steel. It goes well with deep, square armchairs with thick arms that make you long to stay between them. I love City Slicker desks for tidy executives, glassy and clear, as well as durable, comfortable settees and spacious shelf units.

They make anything a customer wants—well, almost anything because their own flair will add so much to what a customer thinks he wants that he will find himself adjusting happily. As a price example, the chair in this photograph is from about £176 upwards (fabric extra) but it is hard to give

prices as their stuff is so individual and the choice of fabrics and finishes can make such a difference. The fair description is that their furniture is in the higher price brackets but is, on inspection and understanding, good value and less shocking than you might think or expect. You can go there just for pleasure and for ideas but, if you go to buy, have a healthy back, a clear open mind and a really positive penchant for modern elegance. The telephone number is 01-821 9486; and they have leaflets for those with serious intentions but I would still suggest a "personal reconnaissance during which you will learn much and change any preconceived ideas."



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